

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 11 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Page B1



TROPICAL FRUIT ON THE MENU IN LOWER TWP.

Page A8



Prosecutor appoints police monitor in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Due to the release of what he terms confidential information from an internal affairs investigation and other actions by the city of Cape May, County Prosecutor Robert Taylor is installing a retired State Police major as a monitor in the Police Department.

Detective Mark Weeks from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

will serve as a monitor and buffer between the Cape May Police Department and the city administration. The move follows exchanges in two letters from March 6 to 9 between City Solicitor Tony Monzo and Taylor.

Monzo issued a news release to the media March 6 clarifying details of an investigation into alleged abuse of paid leave in the Cape May Police Department that led to City Council voting 3-2 March 3 not to appoint

acting Chief Robert Sheehan as permanent police chief.

Outraged by the decision, Councilman Jerry Inderwies resigned from City Council.

A letter from Taylor was hand-delivered to Cape May Mayor Edward Mahaney and City Council March 9. "Due to the recent actions by the City and the release of confidential information from Internal Affairs Investigations contrary to Attorney General Guidelines after being advised not to do so and the request of

Chief/Captain Sheehan, I am installing a monitor for the Cape May City Police Department. Detective Mark Weeks from the Prosecutor's Office will serve as the monitor.

"Detective Weeks is a retired Major from the New Jersey State Police with considerable executive experience. The day-to-day operations of the department shall remain with Chief/Captain Robert Sheehan and the regular chain of command.

"Detective Weeks will act as the

buffer from the city administration. I direct all future communications of any kind by Mayor and Council, the City Manager and City Solicitor to Chief/Captain Sheehan go through Detective Weeks," the letter stated.

Taylor directed a copy of the letter be placed on the Police Department's bulletin board.

"I make this decision as the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the

See Monitor, Page A3

Cape May can name Inderwies substitute

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With the resignation of Jerry Inderwies from City Council on March 3, the city has the option of appointing a new council member until the November general election, according to County Clerk Rita Fulginiti.

She said Cape May opted to hold its nonpartisan municipal elections at the same time as the November general election. Fulginiti said counsel would advise the governing body on how they may select a person to fill the open council seat until the next election.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said council could continue with four members until the November election or appoint someone who may or may not decide to run in the election. He said council would discuss its options at its next meeting. The mayor said he has not had discussion with any possible candidates to fill the vacant council seat.

Reached by phone vacationing in Florida, former Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said he would fill the open seat if asked by City Council.

"It would give me a chance to keep pursuing the school-funding issue," he said.

Wichterman noted the appellate division of the state Superior Court ruled March 4 that Lower Cape May Regional School District must pay the costs of a Dec. 9 special election that asked voters in three constituent towns if Cape May should be allowed to withdraw from the regional school district.

In December, voters in Lower Township and West Cape May voted overwhelmingly against Cape May's bid to withdraw from the district, while voters in Cape May voted in the majority to leave. The vote was 5,078 against Cape May leaving the school district, with 470 voting in favor of the initiative.

The March 4 ruling affirmed a decision last year by Superior Court.



Lingering effects of long winter

John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

While Cape May merchants want visitors to 'Linger Here A Day or Two,' no one wishes for any more lingering snow. What hopefully was southern New Jersey's final winter storm dumped 5 inches of snow March 5 at the Star and Wave's office in West Cape May. But spring seemed to arrive at last with the switch to Daylight Saving Time on March 8. Let's hope the higher temperatures now linger.

Mission Inn named U.S. third-best B&B

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The Mission Inn has been named the nation's third-best bed and breakfast inn, the best in Cape May and 17th-best in the world by TripAdvisor.com.

Customers gave the Mission Inn five stars for sleep quality, location, rooms, service, value and cleanliness. A guest commented on TripAdvisor: "From the moment you walk in to the Mission Inn, it feels like you

are home. Except it's a home that everything is done for you and everything you could think that you want is already there. Susan and Ray, the innkeepers, were made for doing what they do and feel like old friends."

Susan Babineau-Roberts and her husband, Raymond Roberts, seem to have considered every aspect of what makes a memorable stay in a B&B. This is the Mission Inn's

See Mission Inn, Page A2



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

TripAdvisor.com has named The Mission Inn in Cape May the third-best B&B in the nation.

LTMUA hires new executive director

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — The Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (MUA) has signed a contract with Michael Chapman to become its new executive director.

Chapman has experience in managing municipal authorities, working with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and in banking. He signed the contract at a March 4 commission meeting.

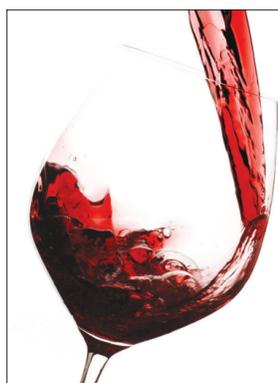
"Being a member of the Association of Environmental Authorities, when we need to have someone good, especially in a management job, we can go to them," MUA Commissioner Steve Sheftz said. "When we advertised (through the association) for a new executive director, we received responses from not only New Jersey but also Pennsylvania and Delaware."

Sheftz said the MUA has a set of interview instructions and asked the candidates questions not only about how they feel working with the people but also about working with the customers.

"This gentleman is going to do a good job. We are happy to have him," Sheftz said.

Chris Eaton, of Remington Vernick and Walberg engineers, reported that after a meeting with businesses on Schellenger's Landing, the sewer project there would be delayed until late 2015 or early 2016. An agreement has been reached with the DEP for a maintenance contract until that time.

See LTMUA, Page A3



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