

160TH YEAR NO. 44

CAPE MAY, N.J.

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## Wichterman: Some wrong about issues with LCMR

#### **By JACK FICHTER** Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman, who has led the charge to change the regional school funding formula, said some suggestions made by candidates for City Council were in error.

He said at Cape May's Candidates Night, there was discussion from some of the candidates suggesting Cape May should sit down and negotiate with Lower Township Council. "That is not an option," Wichter-

man said. "We cannot sit down and negotiate."

He said candidates also suggested negotiating with the regional school board to get a least one more member on the board, which he said was also not an option.

"We don't have the right to negoti-ate with anybody," Wichterman said during an Oct. 21 council meeting. "No one up here has the right to ne-gotiate, nobody in Lower Township has the right to negotiate, it's strictly

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## Lower urges rejection of



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

For a spooky good time, head down to the Emlen Physick Estate on Washington Street to check out the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities' Scarecrow Alley. The grounds of the estate have been transformed for Halloween, with Scarecrow Alley showcasing homemade scarecrows from the ghoulishly gruesome to the foolishly funny. Above, U.S. Coast Guard Confidence Charlie by the Jersey Cape Military Spouses Club. Below left is Elizabeth Crow, ghost of the Washington Inn. Below right, Voodoo Happy Hour by Sue and Anne Gibson. More photos, events list, B8.

Scary time to be a crow

# LoBiondo, Hughes in battle for House seat

Jobs, economy major issues in 2nd District

> By ERIC AVEDISSIAN Cape May Star and Wave

New Jersey's Second Congressional District race is about jobs and the economy, according to both major

party candidates. In a mostly rural region awash with high unemployment, the recent shuttering of four Atlantic City casinos has contributed to the uncertainty.

Incumbent Republican Rep. Frank LoBiondo is running for his 11th con-gressional term in the Nov. 4 election. LoBiondo, 68, grew up in Rosen-

hayn and now resides in of Ventnor. He served as a former Cumberland County freeholder and New Jersey assemblyman before winning a con-gressional seat in 1994. Two years prior, he was defeated in a congressional run against William Hughes, a man whose son now challenges him.

LoBiondo serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, House Armed Services Committee and House Intelligence Committee. He also chairs the Aviation Subcommittee and is on the Coast Guard Subcommittee, Highways and Transit Subcommittee, Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee, and



#### **By JACK FICHTER** Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS - Lower Township Council is encouraging residents to "just vote no" on a Nov. 4 ballot question ask-ing if the Lower Cape May Regional School District funding formula should be based on the number of students each town sends rather than property values.

Council approved a \$600 addi-tion Oct. 20 to a contract with Wyns Consulting, a statistician working on the school issue for Lower Township. Mayor Michael Beck said the firm was crunching some numbers to be included in the resolution for the Dec. 9 referendum. That ballot question asks if voters want to dissolve the re-gional school district or whether Cape May should be permitted to leave the district

Beck said Wyns Consulting would project the financial impact on the regional school district if Cape May

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Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness.

Hughes, 47, grew up in Ocean City and resides in Northfield. He served as a federal prosecutor and is currently an attorney with the Atlantic City-based firm of Cooper Levenson. His father served in Congress from 1975 to 1995, and as U.S. Ambassador to Panama from 1995 to 1998.

Both candidates agree jobs and the economy has been the paramount issue of their respective campaigns. LoBiondo said "uncertainty" and "stability" factor into the general ap-

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### The environment

Congressional candidates weigh in on environment in last in series of issue stories leading up to election. Page A7

## City will lease land from school to develop Lafayette Street Park

#### **By JACK FICHTER** Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city signed an agreement Oct. 23 with the Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education to lease land adjacent to the school on Lafayette Street for 25 years to be used as part of a 35-acre park. The board voted 6-2 to approve the lease agreement, with board members Mark LeMunyon and Sharon Lee

Kustra casting "no" votes. The lease payment is \$1 per year. According to the agreement, the

land that is currently a playground and athletic fields would be used for passive recreation, educational and environmental facilities for the general public and students. The agreement states the city grant funding available from the state Department of Environmental Protection Green Acres Program for the Lafayette Street Park.

The city will construct improvements on the leased land, with the school having the right to review plans, according to the agreement. The school would have the right to reject incorporation of any proposed improvements into the final plan "on the basis that such improvements create a safety threat to students.'

According to the agreement, an existing basketball court immediately adjacent to the school will be preserved in its current condition or be improved. The city will be responsible for demolishing a shed on the property.

The agreement states maintenance and security of the park and all its facilities are the sole responsibility of the city. The school district will notify the city of any security improvements needed to the school building as a result of the city's use of the leased land.

The city will provide all water,

electricity and other utilities at its expense for the leased premises. The school board agreed the park would be available all year at reasonable hours of the day.

According to Bob Fineberg, school board solicitor, the agreement underwent more than one revision. He said any concerns of school board members were conveyed to City Solicitor

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