

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 46 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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RIVER OTTERS GET NEW DIGS AT COUNTY ZOO

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Police to stay in headquarters during construction

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township likely will occupy 55 percent of a totally renovated Public Safety Building at the Cape May County Airport.

According to Lower Township Manager Jim Ridgway, planning is under way for how the building will be divided between Lower Township police and the county Office of Emergency Preparedness.

The township will occupy slightly more space at the request of the chief

of police for more storage space for archives, Ridgway said.

"Each area is going to be broken out because, obviously as a tenant, we'll only be responsible for our utilities for the areas we're using," he said. "The other 40-some percent will be the emergency management people, and we'll have an expanded courtroom area."

Last month, Township Council approved turning over the township's Public Safety Building to the county, which will in turn reconstruct the World War II-era structure and lease

Lower Township part of the building for a police station. The cost of renovating the building was estimated at \$4 million.

The renovations will involve modernization of the Public Safety Building with a future merging of county dispatch with county emergency management dispatch.

"On the timetable, I would say we'll probably be making a move at the earliest in August or September," said Ridgway, referring to the start of construction.

He said the county still must obtain

bonding to finance the renovation project. Ridgway said the reconstruction of the building would take place in phases, allowing police to continue to use the building during construction. He said police need to continue to use computer servers and a controlled entranceway to unload those under arrest from police vehicles.

"We'd like to keep the archives in place and we can build around it," Ridgway said.

He said he was prepared for the scenario of placing police operations in portable buildings but it appears

police can operate for six months in half the space they currently occupy in the Public Safety Building.

Planning is still under way for relocation of the Lower Township Rescue Squad portion of the building, Ridgway said, adding that the township is seeking assistance from local fire companies.

Ridgway said the township's Bureau of Fire Safety would temporarily be relocated to the township's Recreation Center in Villas. Municipal court will

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Council again says farewell to a member

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council said its goodbyes to Councilman Jack Wichterman on the eve of the election Nov. 3.

City Council voted unanimously at a special meeting April 1 to appoint the former deputy mayor to fill a vacant seat created by the resignation of Jerry Inderwies Jr. in March until the election.

Roger Furlin won the Nov. 3 election and will serve the remainder of Inderwies' term. He was expected to take the oath of office Tuesday afternoon.

Wichterman also served on council from 2002 to 2004 and from 2010 to 2014. He chose not to run for re-election this year.

"It's rare you get to say goodbye to a member of council three times," City Solicitor Tony Monzo said.

He offered Wichterman good wishes and thanked him for returning to council earlier in the year. City Manager Bruce MacLeod thanked Wichterman for his years of service. Councilwoman Bea Pessagno said Wichterman gave much to the city.

Councilman Shaine Meier thanked Wichterman for returning to council.

"I highly respect you and honor your service," he said.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said he served with Wichterman three times.

"It's always been a pleasure, and the one point that I made last year when you thought you were retiring was that no matter what the problem was, you were always right there," he said. "You and I always agreed on what the approach would be and we went shoulder

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Frank Scott/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Taking steps to build character

The 4th annual Sole Man Run for Character 5K race and 1K memorial walk was held Saturday, Nov. 7, in Cape May. The event benefited the Gene Sole Scholarship Fund. Sole retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a highly decorated lieutenant colonel and served as vice principal of Lower Cape May Regional High School and finally as principal of the Richard M. Teitelman Middle School. The fund was set up to honor students who demonstrate moral character and integrity through leadership and service to their community.

Andrzejczak, Land win Assembly seats

By ERIC AVEDISSIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Democrats Bob Andrzejczak and Bruce Land defeated Republican Sam Fioocchi and Jim Sauro on Nov. 3 in the First Legislative District Assembly race.

The sprawling First Legislative District encompasses Cape May County, a sizable portion of Cumberland County and parts of Atlantic County.

Andrzejczak, an incumbent Assemblyman and Middle Township resident, received the most votes with 18,690, while Land, a retired prison guard from Vineland, received 17,730. Fioocchi, an incumbent assemblyman and former business owner from Vineland, garnered 15,388 votes, while Sauro, a Cumberland County freeholder and businessman, received 15,025.

Unofficial results for Cape May County showed Andrzejczak receiving 9,473 votes, or 27 percent, while running mate Land received 8,716 votes, or 25 percent. Fioocchi received 8,192 votes, or



ANDRZEJCZAK



LAND

24 percent, while Sauro received 7,569 votes, or 22 percent.

In Cumberland County, the results played out the same, with both Andrzejczak and Land defeating their Republican opponents. Andrzejczak received 8,599, or 28 percent of the vote, in Cumberland County, while Land received 8,433 votes, or 27 percent. Sauro received 6,799 votes, or 22 percent, while Fioocchi received 6,542 votes, or 21 percent.

Andrzejczak, 29, served two tours of

duty with the U.S. Army in Iraq and attained the rank of sergeant. During a 2008 deployment, an anti-tank grenade hit his convoy and wounded Andrzejczak, resulting in the loss of his left leg.

He was appointed to the Assembly in February 2013 and won a full term in November of that year, receiving more votes than any other candidate.

Land, 64, is a retired captain for the New Jersey Department of Corrections. He was a platoon sergeant in Vietnam and received military honors for his service.

The election was Land's first foray into politics, as the Vineland resident had never held political office.

Fioocchi and Sauro focused their campaign on boosting the economy by touting their personal small-business credentials.

Fioocchi, 63, owned his family's irrigation business, Lee Rain Inc., before retiring. He served on the Cumberland County Board of Chosen Freeholders

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City's voters elect Furlin

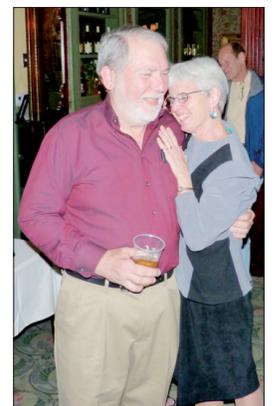
By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With final results not arriving until nearly 10 p.m., election night was a nailbiter for candidates Roger Furlin and Patricia Gray Hendricks. The final count was Furlin with 465 and Hendricks with 389.

Furlin garnered 54 percent of the vote to Hendricks' 45 percent.

The vote was too close to call by voting machine ballots on election night. The process was slowed by a count of mail-in ballots at the county level. At 8:42 p.m., when Cape May City Clerk Louise Cummiskey wrapped up her work, the vote stood at 397 for Furlin and 313 for Hendricks, a margin of 84 votes with none of the 144 mail-in ballots counted.

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Jack Fichter/
CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Roger Furlin embraces his wife, Heather, at a victory party following his win in the Nov. 3 Cape May City Council election.



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