

# Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 51 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015 75¢



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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## CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION WINNERS NAMED

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## Dwyer admits to role in scam

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAMDEN — Attorney Louis C. Dwyer Jr., who has represented countless residents at planning and zoning board hearings in Cape May and Lower Township, pleaded guilty Nov. 20 in U.S. District Court to one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

Sentencing has been scheduled for 10 a.m. Jan. 26 in Camden. His bail was set at \$50,000.

A June 15, 2012, letter from U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman and Assistant U.S. Attorney R. Stephen Stigall to Dwyer's attorney, Edwin J. Jacobs, outlined the plea agreement.

According to the agreement, the U.S. Attorney's Office accepted a guilty plea from Dwyer to "an Information which charges the defendant with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, contrary to 18 U.S.C. 1343 and money laundering, contrary to 18 U.S.C. 1957 in violation of 18 U.S.C. 371."

The plea agreement notes if Dwyer enters a guilty plea and is sentenced on this charge and otherwise fully complies with all the terms of the agreement, "this office will not initiate any further criminal charges against Louis C. Dwyer for his role in the conspiracy to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud various lenders in connection with mortgage loans issued to finance the purchase of the following properties..." The letter lists seven addresses in North Wildwood.

According to the letter, the violation of 18 U.S.C. 371 to which Dwyer pleaded guilty carries a statutory maximum prison sentence of five years and a statutory maximum fine equal to the greatest of \$250,000 or twice the gross amount of any pecuniary gain that any persons derived from the offense or twice the gross amount of any pecuniary loss

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## Fugitive arrested after pedestrians hit

NORTH CAPE MAY — Prior to the start of the Lower Township Rotary Club Christmas Parade on Dec. 12, police received a report that two pedestrians had been struck by a motor vehicle in the vicinity of Bayshore Road and Pontaxit Avenue.

Upon arriving on scene, officers found a female victim lying in the middle of Bayshore Road, as well as a male victim clinging to a utility pole. Both victims were treated on scene by members of the Lower Township Rescue Squad. Ultimately, the female was flown to AtlantiCare Regional Medical Center for treatment of her injuries, while the male was transported to Cape Regional Medical Center. Both victims are residents of North Cape May.

Investigation revealed the driver of the vehicle,

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Michael A. Morelli, 45, of Wildwood Crest, is taken into custody Dec. 12 after allegedly striking two pedestrian.

## Police find body amid search for missing girl

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Authorities searching for a missing Lower Township teenager found the body of a white female in a Rio Grande home.

While conducting a missing person's investigation Dec. 14, detectives from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Lower Township Police Department went to a vacant home at 100 Vermont Ave. and discovered the body of a white female. An autopsy was scheduled for Dec. 15 in order to assist in the identification of the female as well as the manner in which she died.

The detectives were searching for 15-year old Nicole Angstadt, who was reported missing from Erma by her mother Dec. 1, according to a news release from the county Prosecutor's Office.

On Dec. 7, Lower Township police requested the public's assistance in locating Angstadt, who was described by police as a runaway. She was last seen Nov. 29. According to police, Angstadt had been located in the past in the Rio Grande and Wildwood areas.

Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor stated this is an ongoing investigation and urges anyone who may have additional information to contact the Prosecutor's Office at (609) 465-1135, the Lower Township Police Department at (609) 886-2711 or the Middle Township Police Department at (609) 465-8700, or text TIP MTPDTIPS followed by your message to 888777.



John Cooke/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

## Washington Street Mall ho, ho, hosts Hospitality Night

Michale Williams and MJ, I, take a selfie with Santa outside Winterwood during Hospitality Night on Dec. 11 at the Washington Street Mall in Cape May. Williams, of Tinton Falls, was enjoying his first visit to the city.

## Former mayor predicts Sheehan case will never go to trial

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Jerry Gaffney, a former Cape May mayor and former insurance agent, stated at a Dec. 1 City Council meeting that he did not believe litigation between former police chief Robert Sheehan and the city would ever go to trial.

"I must say with some degree of ability that I feel the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) attorneys will never let this get to trial, I think I'm quite sure of that," said Gaffney "You'll never get before a judge or

a jury."

Gaffney was the city's representative to the JIF when he served as a city councilman.

He asked council if they had any change in their feeling toward supporting Councilman Shaine Meier's efforts to reinstate Sheehan. Meier has offered motions at previous council meetings to reinstate Sheehan as chief of police. Gaffney asked new Councilman Roger Furlin for his position on the matter.

City Solicitor Tony Monzo said his advice to council has been that the matter is in litigation and they

should refrain from making any statements that "can ultimately be used against the city's interests in connection with any litigation."

Furlin said of the information he received from Monzo on the Sheehan matter, he wasn't sure what was privileged and what was not privileged, so he would refrain from commenting.

Meier said he concurred with Gaffney that the litigation would never go to trial.

"I don't think anybody at this table is going to want to be under oath about what's really going on

here," Meier said.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said he believed Meier was speaking for himself.

"Speaking for myself, I'm guided by the city attorney and our outside counsel," he said.

Mahaney said he did not agree with Meier's point and would not get into open discussion because "it would not benefit the public, and the public is who we serve and who put us here."

Gaffney said he believed a lot

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## Parking lot, garage not part of plan on Lafayette

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The suggestion that a portion of the proposed Lafayette Street Park be used for a parking lot or parking garage received a cool reception from Mayor Edward Mahaney and City Manager Bruce MacLeod at a special joint meeting of the city's Planning Board and Historic Preservation Commission on Dec. 8.

The meeting was held to present plans for phase one of the proposed Lafayette Street Park.

City Councilman Shaine Meier said he understood the park would be built in phases and read a statement suggesting a parking area be created on the St. Johns Street portion of the park.

"According to the master plan, 70 percent of cars coming into Cape May come down Lafayette Street," Meier said.

He said the master plan states parking is a problem in Cape May. Meier said between 1 and 4 p.m. on summer afternoons, at least 200 cars enter the city belonging to employees of restaurants and stores that must circle the town searching for parking and take up spaces that should be used by visitors.

"If we make 100 parking spaces, we can get 100 cars of the street during peak times,"

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## CHRISTMAS TAP TAKEOVER

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