



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



FRESNEL COMES TO THE AID OF HIS MASTER

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City seeks bids to replace school swimming pool

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Plans and specifications are complete for replacement of Cape May City Elementary School's indoor swimming pool and a request for bids was advertised Dec. 10.

At a Dec. 6 City Council meeting, city engineer Tom Thornton, of Mott MacDonald, said his firm has advertised for bids on the project. A pre-bid conference was scheduled for Monday in City Hall for interested contractors.

The work includes but it is not limited to the renovation of existing men's and women's locker rooms, pool office and natatorium, demolition of the existing pool, pool deck and pool equipment. The request for bids states the work shall be completed "by the earlier of Aug. 10, 2017, or within 200 calendar days of the contractor's receipt of written notice to proceed. It notes the project has a prevailing wage requirement.

Councilman Shaine Meier asked if demolition of the existing pool would take place during school

'There's going to have to be some work done during school hours. We discussed minimizing the noise.'

—city engineer Tom Thornton

hours. Thornton said he met with Mayor Edward Mahaney and the Board of Education to discuss that issue.

"There's going to have to be some work done during school

hours," he said. "We discussed minimizing the noise."

Thornton said he did not recall specifically what work was planned to be undertaken during the summer months.

Mahaney said the contractor needed to be aware it may have to work in staggered shifts to complete demolition when school is not in session. He said it was felt jack hammering and heavy pneumatic drills during school hours would be disruptive. In addition, days when school is not in session could be used for noisy

work, Mahaney said. "They have to keep on a regular schedule in order to get this done," he added.

At a Dec. 15 meeting of the Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education, Business Administrator John Thomas said the specifications for the pool project filled 158 pages.

The only major change since the city took over the project from Wallover Architects is instead of cutting off the top of the pool and

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Beck, Clark bid adieu in Lower Twp.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark said their goodbyes Monday as their terms ended on Lower Township Council. Neither Beck nor Clark, both independents, sought re-election last November, while Republicans Erik Simonsen and Frank Sippel ran unopposed.

"Besides many years of service as an elected official, we appreciate your service to our country, to the citizens as a police officer and also the students, especially in the Villas, at St. Raymond's," Simonsen said. "I want to say we haven't always agreed but I believe we've had mutual respect for one another."

Beck served as a township councilman from 1998 to 2006 and mayor from 2009 to 2016. Simonsen presented Beck with a plaque that stated "Your untiring efforts on behalf of the residents of Lower Township will not soon be forgotten."

"I want to start out by thanking the Lord above," said Beck. "It may not be popular to bring the Lord into government but I always tried."

He said sometimes it was not a question of fighting for a town, "sometimes it's a question of taking a punch for the town."

Beck thanked council and wished them success.

"I'm not always right but I can guarantee you one thing, I always try to be right," he said. "Anything I've done up here has been with the best of intentions."

He said it worried him that fewer residents

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Werner Tedesco/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Silent night, holy night

Werner Tedesco provided the Christmas tree for a night photo shoot at St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Cape May Point. Originally known as the 'Gingerbread Church,' it was built for Philadelphia's Centennial Exhibition in 1876 and moved to Cape May Point in 1879.

Stockton may compile data on Cape May beach injuries

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Looking ahead at 2017, the city's Beach Safety Committee will be working with Cape Regional Medical Center to conduct a study of individuals who are injured in Cape May's surf zone who arrive at the emergency room. Before the incoming City Council next year is a proposal from Stockton University's Coastal Research Center to work with the hospital in tabulating the injuries.

At a Dec. 6 City Council meeting, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said much data still needs to be collected and compiled into a report.

"Based on the similar report that had been generated and kept over the last five- or six-year period in Delaware, I asked Stockton University to prepare a proposal for their participation if the City Council in the future desires to pursue this for their participation in maintaining and logging and keeping the statistics and data pertaining to the environmental criteria," he said.

Items to be taken into consideration include the weather, wind, water temperature and wave action at the time of injuries, MacLeod said.

"I believe in Delaware they built upon that through the years to incorporate additional items as they developed their reporting system," he said.

MacLeod said Cape May should try to collect information pertaining to slope of the beach

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Toys for Tots campaign now in full swing

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

A year-round project of the George L. Dramis Detachment 676 of the Marine Corps League, Cape May County's Toys for Tots campaign is about to do what it is best known for by the community — give toys to needy children at Christmas.

The detachment volunteers with helpers, under the direction of Kevin Mallon, will be distributing toys to disadvantaged children from babies to teens before Christmas. Last year, 2,500 children from 1,000 families received toys.

This year, the distribution

location is Urie's Waterfront Restaurant, 588 W. Rio Grande Blvd. at the foot of the bridge in Wildwood. Parents and guardians will be able to pick up toys, activity books, markers, stocking stuffers and accessories from 2 to 7 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 23. As each adult arrives, they will fill out an application and will be accompanied by a volunteer personal shopper to guide them through the many items on hand. Toys are at the top of the list but there are also coloring books, wallets and ties, even watches for the older teens. The items are arranged by

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Betty Wund/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Parents will be able to pick up toys and other items from 2 to 7 p.m. through Friday, Dec. 23, at Urie's Waterfront Restaurant in Wildwood.

Schaffer will hang up sheriff's badge in '17

By ERIC AVEDESIAN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Cape May County Sheriff Gary Schaffer announced he would not run for another term in 2017.

Schaffer, of Upper Township, has a total of 45 years in law enforcement. He was elected sheriff in 2008 and re-elected in 2011 and 2014.

Prior to his service as county sheriff, Schaffer served 25 years in the Ocean City Police Department. He was director of the Cape May County Police Academy for 10 years.

Schaffer made the announcement that he would not run for another term during a meeting of Republican municipal leaders Dec. 14 in Avalon. He sent a letter to Republican Committee members notifying them of his intention not to seek another term.

"I'll be turning 66 a few months after my

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