

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 16 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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GOOD SEASON GOAL OF LCMR BOYS LACROSSE

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Boyd blasts manager, council for Sheehan demotion



'This entire issue, everything that's happened to Chief Sheehan, is directly the responsibility and the failure of the city administrator.'

—Former Cape May Police Chief Robert Boyd

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Former Cape May police chief Robert Boyd told City Council and the mayor it was “unconscionable” they had demoted “probably the best police chief” the city ever had and “if they were smart,” they would return Robert Sheehan to his position.

Boyd said he was not in town when the “ambush lynching” of Sheehan took place.

“This entire issue, everything that’s happened to Chief Sheehan, is directly the responsibility and the failure of the city administrator,” Boyd said.

He said he would not continue with his criticism of City Manager Bruce MacLeod since he was on vacation and not present

at the council meeting.

“You’ve already done enough damage to the police department that it will take, certainly, years to repair,” Boyd said.

He said he lived through a similar situation in the late 1980s when City Council decided there were a number of improprieties being committed by the city manager and the chief financial officer/treasurer. Boyd said at

that time, council decided the Police Department was not being run to full capacity.

Charges were brought against City Manager Fred Coldren at that time as well as MacLeod, he said. Boyd said a councilman whose son was arrested sought retaliation against him in the 1980s.

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Lower delays adoption of animal-care regulations

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council tabled an ordinance that would amend animal regulations concerning pets left in a cold or hot garage or basement.

Resident Helen Thompson has led the charge for an ordinance change. At an April 6 meeting, Thompson said she disagreed with Councilman David Perry’s assessment that concrete floors in garages were cool enough for dogs in hot weather. She said the original ordinance, when introduced, did not allow dogs to be left in a garage or basement unless heated and cooled. Thompson noted when the county animal shelter first opened, it had concrete floors but no air conditioning. She said the temperature in summer in there reached almost 90 degrees, causing dogs to suffer seizures and die. The shelter has since installed air conditioning.

The newer version of the ordinance allowed dogs and cats to be placed in a garage with no ventilation with temperatures as high as 90 degrees, she said. Thompson said the current version of the ordinance allows animals to be resting on concrete floors down to 32 degrees.

She requested the garage provision be completely removed from the ordinance or a requirement be included

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Spring blooms in Cape May Point

Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Old Man Winter finally loosened his icy grip on Cape Island with the arrival of daffodils at Pavilion Circle Park in Cape May Point. Spring has arrived a little late this year, but temperatures have finally risen into the 50s and 60s.

Cape May will provide legal counsel amid police probe

By JACK FICHTER
Sentinel staff

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a resolution to provide legal defense to Cape May officials and employees being interviewed amid an investigation of alleged comp time abuse in the city’s Police Department by the county Prosecutor’s Office.

At an April 7 City Council meeting, City Solicitor Tony Monzo said the city code allows it to provide legal defense for any of its officials and employees that are participating in an investigation. He said the city could provide some legal protection and advice as to their role in the matter.

“There are several employees that have been contacted by the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office in connection with what they call an administrative investigation, and they have expressed some discomfort with that and have asked in writing for the city to provide a legal defense as permitted by the city ordinance, which City Council

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Inderwies questions costs of Philly Pops concerts in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a \$62,500 contract with the Philly Pops for a concert Sept. 5 in Convention Hall.

At an April 7 council meeting, former councilman Jerry

Inderwies Jr. asked the resolution approving the contract be read aloud to the public. The resolution is contingent upon a professional services agreement being executed by the mayor and city clerk within 30 days of the passage of the resolution.

“Did we sell out the concert

last year for the Philly Pops?” Inderwies asked.

“No,” replied Mayor Edward Mahaney.

Inderwies asked if the city or anyone else purchased tickets and gave them away to city employees or local residents to fill empty seats.

Mahaney said the city did

not give away any free tickets. The mayor said he and Deputy Mayor Terri Swain bought three tickets that were made available to veterans and “people around town.” Mahaney said he did not remember tickets being given to city employees but said it was possible.

City Solicitor Tony Monzo said he did not see any impropriety in giving concert tickets to city employees.

Inderwies asked how the city would cover the cost if the Philly Pops concert is not a sellout.

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Stockton lease of Franklin St. School in works

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Negotiations are under way for Stockton University to lease the historic Franklin Street School from the city, which owns the building.

Former Mayor Jerry Gaffney, who identified himself as a Center for Community Arts volunteer, asked Mayor Edward Mahaney at a April 7 City Council meeting if Stockton University had an interest in acquiring the school.

“I firmly believe that Stockton University having a presence in Cape May is a wonder-

ful thing and I support that,” Gaffney said.

He asked if Stockton would purchase the school or lease it and what presence CCA would have in the Franklin Street School.

Mahaney said in putting an arrangement together as a community improvement project, the city reached out to CCA Executive Director David MacKenzie. The mayor said the city was working with CCA to resolve some legal and financial issues.

“Most of the information we needed was from CCA regarding their financial status and the status of certain grants that

have expired and others that are still active,” Mahaney said.

He said Stockton continues to be very interested in the building. If an arrangement were completed, Stockton would lease rather than purchase the building, Mahaney said.

“There would still be a major involvement by CCA because the mission of CCA is to serve the underserved in this community, and that needs to be continued,” he said.

Mahaney said scheduling would make the school versatile enough for both parties to use the building. He reiterated CCA would have a presence in

the Franklin Street School.

Mahaney said during discussions, the city and Stockton University President Herman J. Saatkamp Jr. were in agreement that CCA and its mission should be continued. The mayor said he did not want to discuss the negotiations in public at this time but when negotiations concluded, it would be brought before the public.

“It’s a major asset to the city,” Mahaney said. “To get that building rehabbed is going to take about \$2 million, which the city doesn’t have and obvi-

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

The Center for Community Arts will continue to have a role at the Franklin Street School even after Stockton University takes over, Mayor Edward Mahaney said.



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