

Cape May Star and Wave



160TH YEAR NO. 19 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 2014 50¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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COAST GUARD HOLDS MOCK TERROR ATTACK

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Lower Twp. Council moves to dissolve MUA

The split decision falls along party lines, with Republicans rejecting the measure

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Lower Township Council voted 3-2 Monday to begin the process of dissolving the Lower Township Municipal Utilities Authority (LTMUA).

According to a report prepared for the township by Robert Swartz, a certified public accountant with Ford, Scott of Ocean City, close to \$1 million

per year would be saved by taxpayers and ratepayers by shutting down the LTMUA and consolidating employees with the township's Public Works Department.

The vote split along party lines, with independents Mayor Michael Beck, Deputy Mayor Norris Clark and Councilman James Neville voting to make application to the New Jersey Local Finance Board to dissolve the LTMUA, and

Republican Councilmen Erik Simonsen and Tom Conrad voting against it.

Swartz said annual savings of about \$991,000 would be the result of the elimination of duplicate administrative activity. He said the township Tax Office could handle the billing for a new water/sewer department.

In addition, the township's Finance Office has the capacity to absorb the financial

operations of the LTMUA and the township manager would be able to perform the functions performed by the executive director of LTMUA, Swartz said.

In his report, he noted reduction of administration salaries at the LTMUA would save taxpayers \$389,080 per year and reduction of operations salaries \$292,000.

He said the township's Director of Public Works Gary Douglass reviewed the work-

flow of plant and field operations of the LTMUA and determined that the consolidation of personnel would allow for an overall reduction in operating personnel. Douglass also determined there would be significant ongoing savings from equipment repairs and replacement, since the township would be able to use the same equipment for public works and utility operations, Swartz said.

He said it is anticipated a township water/sewer utility fund would be self-liquidating, meaning that the fund would generate sufficient revenue without increasing rates to the users of the water and sewer system.

Lower Township Manager Mike Voll noted that LTMUA employees asked council to address problems at the author-

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Tourism panel optimistic that shore will see growth in '14

By KRISTEN KELLEHER
Cape May Star and Wave

ATLANTIC CITY — Panelists spoke optimistically of Atlantic City's future, and new marketing endeavors beginning this summer to entice visitors to the southern New Jersey shore's economic epicenter in the sixth annual Jersey Shorecast.

The Shorecast is hosted by the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism at the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey.

The favorable forecast came in spite of a still-recovering economy. According to Michael Busler, a finance professor at Stockton and a Shorecast panelist, tourism in the United States was 4 percent higher in 2013 than in 2012. New Jersey experienced a record high for 2013 tourism, which was 2 percent to 3 percent higher than average.

"I think if you took Atlantic City out of the mix, most of those tourism communities were probably up 4 percent," Busler said.

Nationwide, unemployment has been decreasing in 2014, with about 1.5 million more people working today than in 2013, he said. The decreased unemployment means an increase in disposable income, which should increase tourism spending, Busler said.

The nation's economy is still slow to recover. The GDP growth has averaged 2 percent in the past five years. Typically, for an economic recovery, GDP growth averages 4 percent, he said.

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Daily, Cape May's 'Parade Lady,' dies

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Charlotte Daily, best known as the "Parade Lady" for her creation of the West Cape May Community Christmas Parade, passed away April 30 at the age of 82.

Daily was a lifelong resident of the Cape May area and a 1949 graduate of Cape May High School. She held the



DAILY

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Good riddance, Old Man Winter!



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Todd Gerloush and Cyndy Cesena, of Freehold Township, enjoy their first beach day of the season May 4 on Cove Beach in Cape May, where blue skies, light breezes and a 72-degree temperature prompted many to remove beach chairs from the garage and visit the seaside sand.

Board: County should fund Lower-to-Middle bike path

By DEBORAH MCGUIRE
Special to the Star and Wave

VILLAS — A letter recommending the county Board of Chosen Freeholders contribute more than \$400,000 to be used to help fund a bike path connecting Lower and Middle townships was sent to both municipalities' governments April 22.

The letter, sent by the county Open Space Board, brings the concept of a bike path, which would allow cyclists to ride from the Cape May County Park and Zoo to the

Cape May-Lewes Ferry terminal in North Cape May, one step closer to fruition.

Providing a connecting path between the two townships would be a first in the county. According to Lower Township Manager Mike Voll, the long-standing cooperative relationship between the two communities was an integral factor.

"We're working together," Voll said.

He explained that as part of the proposal, Lower Township would

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The northern end of the bike path in Lower Township would be extended to meet the Middle Township bike path under a plan advocated by the Cape May County Open Space Board.

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