

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 25 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Taylor files counterclaim to Cape May lawsuit

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COURT HOUSE — Prosecutor Robert Taylor filed a counterclaim against the city of Cape May's civil suit in Superior Court May 27.

Cape May officials and Taylor faced off in Superior Court Judge Christopher Gibson's courtroom May 22. Cape May presented its arguments why a monitor appointed by the Prosecutor's Office should be removed from the city's Police

Department. Gibson had not yet rendered a decision, which may be pending more oral arguments.

In the counterclaim, Taylor stated City Manager Bruce MacLeod "cannot be trusted to observe and follow the law and should be disqualified or removed by the city as the appropriate authority" over the police department.

"The city should be required to name a different appropriate authority," it stated.

Taylor stated the city designated MacLeod as the "appropriate au-

thority" having certain oversight and supervisory authority over the operations of the Police Department.

"Bruce MacLeod has violated the New Jersey Attorney General Guidelines on the confidentiality of internal affairs investigations involving two officers in the Cape May Police Department," states the brief. "New Jersey Attorney General Guidelines has the force of a law by legal precedent."

"Bruce MacLeod has broken the law on a number of occasions intentionally," it continues.

The counterclaim refers to MacLeod holding a news conference March 19 during which "an extensive amount of confidential information in violation of said Attorney General Guidelines" was released. It notes MacLeod issued a news release March 19 containing five pages of narrative and nine pages of exhibits including a March 2 letter from First Assistant Prosecutor Robert Johnson to City Solicitor Tony Monzo regarding a confidential internal affairs investigation. Taylor stated the letter from Johnson warned about not

releasing confidential information "but the solicitor read it anyway at a public meeting."

The counterclaim states MacLeod and the city were warned repeatedly by Johnson and Taylor not to divulge confidential information from the internal affairs investigation both orally and in writing.

Despite the warnings, MacLeod continued to allow city officials including the mayor and solicitor to release additional confidential

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JCP&L cleanup to start this fall

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Planning Board heard a presentation by Jersey Central Power and Light (JCP&L) June 9 about the status of the remediation project for the property located off Lafayette Street. Between 1853 and 1937, manufactured gas was used for lighting, heating and cooking. With the advent of natural gas, the plant was closed. The cleanup or remediation of a former manufactured gas plant (MGP) is ongoing.

Since 1985, JCP&L has been conducting environmental investigations at the site. To date, JCP&L has implemented several remedial actions with removal of 10,000 tons of MGP-impacted soil and replacement with certified clean soil. Numerous reports and studies documenting these activities have been submitted and approved by the state Department of Environmental Protection, according to JCP&L.

In 2009, the DEP approved a Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP). In March, JCP&L's Licensed Site Remediation Professional (LSRP) approved the RAWP. The remediation involves removing MGP-impacted soil and replacing the containment area with clean fill. After the remediation is complete, JCP&L will be monitoring the area in perpetuity.

The remediation will be completed in two phases. The first phase will start after Labor Day and finish by Memorial Day 2016. The second phase will start after Labor Day 2016 and finish by Memorial Day 2017. Bids for the project are going out and a construction company will be awarded the job this summer, according to Ken Seborowski, JCP&L project superintendent.

The main concern of the JCP&L presentation was to

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Escape the Cape Triathlon



Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Athletes tested their mettle and resilience as they literally jumped into the 3rd annual Escape the Cape Triathlon on Sunday, June 14. The Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal hosted the endurance event, created by DelMoSports, which has been voted the Best Triathlon in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions. Athletes began the USAT-sanctioned event by leaping 10 feet from the MV Delaware into Delaware Bay and swimming ashore.

Committee: Cape May should hire firefighters

Process to hire three new members would begin in November

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A committee reviewing the staffing of the city's Fire Department has recommended the hiring of three full-time firefighters in January 2016. The process to hire the additional firefighters would begin in November.

Adding three staffers would increase the number of firefighters on duty per shift from four to five. The hiring of three additional firefighters must be approved by a majority vote of City Council at a future meeting.

The city has increased the summer part-time staff to provide one additional firefighter per shift through mid-September, increasing the number per shift to six. The committee recommended maintaining two extra firefighters per shift for summer 2016.

Increasing the number of career staff to 17 year round allows for seven firefighters per shift from mid-May to mid-September and the ability to put as many as three ambulances on the road with staff at the firehouse, according to the committee's recommendations.

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Resident proposes dog beach in Lower Twp.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Resident Helen Thompson, who was instrumental in the creation of an ordinance protecting pets from temperature extremes, proposed Lower Township set aside a half-mile stretch of beach for dogs.

She proposed a location on a township-owned beach beginning at Lincoln Boulevard and ending at the Cape May Canal near the ferry terminal.

Thompson called the proposed off-leash dog beach "Mutt's Cove." The dog beach would have access from Douglass Park and Lincoln Boulevard,

she said.

No homes are in the area and the strand of sand is already known as a dog beach, Thompson said. Dog owners would always have a place to take their dogs as future beach regulations get tighter and tighter, she said.

In a 3-2 vote June 8, Township Council approved an ordinance banning dogs from township-owned beaches from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the summer season.

Thompson displayed a photo of the section of beach taken Aug. 9, 2014,



THOMPSON

showing it sparsely populated. Her proposal called for community volunteers to oversee the project with approval from council.

Mutt's Cove would have rules including all dogs must be up to date on vaccinations and licensing, puppies under 4 months old and female dogs in heat would not be allowed on the beach. While dogs could be allowed off leash, they're handlers would be required to carry a leash at all times, she said.

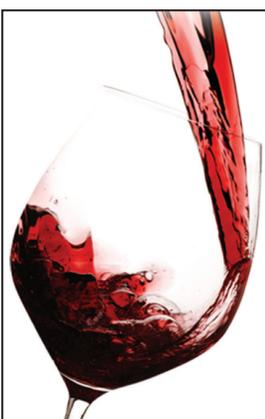
Handlers would be responsible and

liable for any injuries caused by their dogs and would sign a release excluding Lower Township from any responsibility or financial liability for injuries to people or pets, Thompson said.

She displayed photos of three off-leash dog beaches, two in Florida and one in California.

"Owners would be required to keep all dogs leashed upon entering and until the arriving dog makes contact with several dogs in the beach area," Thompson said. "Once contact is made and no signs of aggression emerge, the arriving dog can be released to play."

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