

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 35 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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USPS HONORS COAST GUARD WITH STAMP

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Cape May refuses to address Superior Court ruling

Judge rejected city's request to quash subpoenas in comp time investigation

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council and City Solicitor Tony Monzo refused to answer questions from the public at an Aug. 18 council meeting regarding a Superior Court judge's ruling denying a request from Cape May to quash three Grand Jury subpoenas issued by the county Prosecutor's Office to city employees.

The employees included City

Manager Bruce MacLeod and City Clerk Louise Cummiskey, who were ordered to provide records pertaining to alleged abuse of compensatory time by Cape May Police Lt. Chuck Lear, council's attempt to restrict operating hours of Carney's on Beach Avenue and the hiring of outside counsel.

At the questioning of resident Mike Costello, Monzo said everything that happened in court was confidential and could not be discussed. Costello

said the court's ruling was public knowledge after it appeared in the media. Monzo said it was not made public by any member of City Council or action by the city.

"The fact remains you went to court to try to prevent having to release comp time statements for the city," Costello said.

He said it was obvious there was an issue with comp time for many city employees.

"If you have nothing to hide, you

don't go to court to hide something," Costello said. "This throws out the whole case of Lt. Lear as well as Chief (Robert) Sheehan. They did nothing wrong."

He said comp time in New Jersey is legal providing the employee and employer agree to it.

Monzo said Costello was "totally misstating what happened in court," because he did not know what documents were turned over to the court. Monzo said he could not comment

on the proceedings because it was all under seal.

"The comptroller's report clearly stated that comp time is illegal unless it's approved by the governing body by an ordinance," Monzo said.

On Aug. 13, Superior Court Judge Bernard Delury denied the city's request for the subpoenas to be suppressed. Under Delury's ruling, the city was directed to provide more

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Kim Royster/Special to the CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Off the starboard bow

New Jersey's official tall ship the A.J. Meerwald, a restored 1928 Delaware Bay oyster schooner, sails in the Cape May Canal at the conclusion of a trip into the ocean. The Meerwald will sail from Utsch's Marina through Sept. 5.

Bashaw offers vision for city; group honors Wichterman

By CAROL R. EMMENS
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Councilman Jack Wichterman was honored as the Citizen of the Year by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May on Aug. 21. Group President Kate Wyatt presented the award and noted his long history of community service and clear communication about the city government.

In accepting the award, Wichterman said, "What makes Cape May what it is are all the volunteers and the work they do."

Curtis Bashaw, a volunteer and co-founder and managing partner of Cape Advisors, a real estate development firm, was the guest speaker. He presented his vision for Cape May.

History shows us that without vision, cities and towns perish, Bashaw said. He emphasized a need for Cape May to build on its strengths and to meet its challenges. If not, it risks falling into a decline as it did in the 1880s as it ignored the new rail lines going elsewhere and temporarily lost its standing as the Queen of the Seaside Resorts.

"We have to stay competitive and we have to allow for new ideas," Bashaw said.

He summarized his vision in six points:

- Increase the year-round population
- Preserve excellent educational op-

See Vision of future, Page A4

Residents want city to address spinal injuries

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — On Aug. 5, a 17-year old summer resident of Cape May finished his shift working in the kitchen at the Beach Club and jumped into the ocean to cool off. In the process, he broke the C5 vertebra in his neck, sending him to the intensive care unit of Atlanticare Regional Medical Center in Atlantic City.

He has undergone surgeries and remains paralyzed. In the past decade, a number of neck and spine injuries have allegedly been caused by a shorebreak, a sharp drop off at the water's edge believed

See Spinal injuries, Page A5



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Patricia Hendricks, left, files her nominating petitions with Cape May City Clerk Louise Cummiskey on Aug. 24, officially kicking off her candidacy for an open seat on City Council.

Hendricks launches bid for seat on City Council

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Patricia Gray Hendricks filed her nominating petitions with City Clerk Louise Cummiskey on Aug. 24, officially kicking off her candidacy for an open seat on City Council.

Hendricks stated she decided to run for one overriding reason: to speak out on important issues facing the city and seek to develop broad-based solutions for them at the council level.

"In recent years, Cape May City politics has been plagued by division and stalemate. This is a disservice to the public and cannot go on," she stated. "My

candidacy, therefore, will be an effort to return consensus-based governance to our community. We must find common ground and work together."

Her resume includes serving as the first female commodore of the Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May, 2015 president of the Cape May County Board of Realtors and Outstanding Realtor of the Year in 2011, a director of New Jersey Realtors Board of Directors, New Jersey Real Estate Commission appointee to Designated Agency Task Force, a trustee of New Jersey Realtors Educational Foundation and Governmental Research Founda-

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