



## HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



## HONEY SWEETENS JEWISH NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

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# Beach slope fix elusive

Experts say injuries not statistically significant

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Agencies that regulate beach nourishment and movement of sand did not offer much hope of eliminating the city's beach slope nor did they acknowledge Cape May has an unusual number of surf zone-related injuries during a public meeting last week.

A meeting with representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state Department of Environmental Protection and other beach experts requested by the city's Beach Safety Committee was held Aug. 25 in Convention Hall. The committee was seeking answers on how to reduce injuries to bathers in the surf zone between the high and low tide lines.

Louise Senft, whose son broke his neck in the surf zone in Cape May last summer, asked if beach safety could be added to the Army Corps goals.

"Right now we're not 100 percent clear that it is a problem or a problem specific to Cape May," said Chris Constantino of the DEP's Bureau of Coastal Engineering.

Richard Pearsall of the Army Corps said there was a need for more study.

"We're not at all convinced that there is a safety issue per se that these beaches are unsafe. We just have not seen evidence to that affect," he said.

The beach slope can be changed to alter the impact of the waves but the slope will return to its original form, Pearsall said.

"I'm not sure there is too much we can do in terms of tinkering with slope," he said.

He said the Army Corps was not equipped to do epidemiological studies but it could request a study of



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Stewart Farrell and Kimberly McKenna, of the Stockton University Coastal Research Center, look at a photo showing the Cape May Inlet, which is thought to be the cause of the steep shore break in Cape May, during a beach safety meeting. Below, Chris Constantino of the DEP's Bureau of Coastal Engineering said it is not clear that the beach slope is a problem.

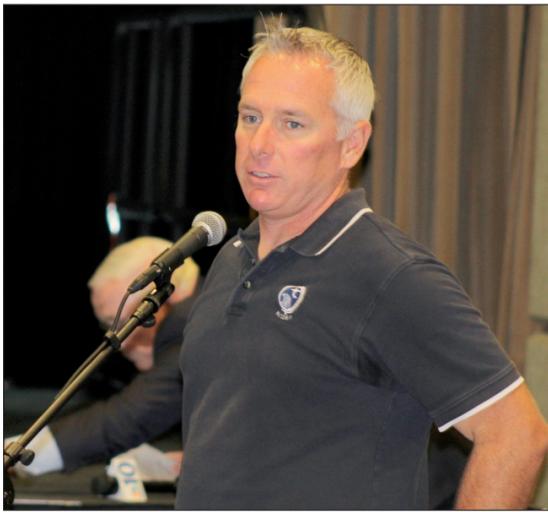
### INSIDE

Mayor candidate wants legislators to help make Cape May a test site for a beach safety/protection project.

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beach safety issues for the entire New Jersey shore if ordered to do so by Congress.

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# How to avoid injuries in shore break conditions

By RYAN COWDER  
Special to the Star and Wave

*Editor's note: Ryan Cowder is a sergeant with the Ocean City, Md., Beach Patrol with 18 years' experience. We present this as view of shore break injuries in another beach town.*

OCEAN CITY, Md. — Riding waves is fun. It is undoubtedly one of the main reasons many people come to the beach for a vacation. Whether it is body surfing, boogie boarding, or surfing at one of our surfing beaches, riding the waves is one of the least expensive and

fun things you can do at the beach. However, each season we have several weeks when we have increased shore break in Ocean City, Md., and this type of wave is not meant for riding. In fact, riding shore break can cause severe injury, paralysis and even death.

Shore break is when waves continue to build as they approach the beach before breaking in shallow water or actually breaking directly on the beach. Shore break occurs because of the shape and depths of the sea floor bottom. Waves only break in water that is 1.3 times the height of the wave.

At or near high tide in Ocean City, Md., the waves never meet a depth this shallow until they are almost on the beach. And when the wave gets to shallow water, their height increases. So a three-foot wave can become a five- or six-foot wave that will then pound the beach.

Furthermore, the energy of a three-foot wave has been calculated to have 10kW of energy, which is equivalent to the energy of a small car at full throttle. The point to be made here is that riding shore break is very dangerous. The wave propels your body with great amounts of energy and then your body almost immediately hits wet sand, which is like hitting concrete.

The Ocean City, Md., Beach Patrol always advises people not to body surf or boogie board in shore break, but people do not always listen. The sad fact is that every summer we take over 100 people off the beach on backboards or with neck collars. Some of the injuries sustained are minor, although even an abrasion to the forehead or a bloody nose is treated as the most serious spinal injury as a precaution. In many cases

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# Mahaney will run for re-election as Cape May mayor

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Edward Mahaney submitted a petition to Cape May City Clerk Louise Cummiskey on Aug. 29 signifying his intent to seek re-election as mayor in the Nov. 8 general election.

In a news release, Mahaney said in his tenure as mayor he has focused on continued progressive growth.

"This ongoing achievement has been fueled by a strong series of private-public partnerships. He has successfully integrated a long-range planning agenda with long-term

financial and capital planning programs and strongly believes in comprehensive and systematic sustainability for Cape May," the release stated.

Over the past eight years, Mahaney has worked closely with both the City Council and city manager to ensure the city's focus on sustainability and resiliency, the release stated.

Mahaney listed his accomplishments, including completion of the \$1.8 million refurbishment of Rotary Park funded through competitive grants and a private-public partner-

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# Lucille's labors a key ingredient at the Chalfonte

By JOHN ALVAREZ  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — A term used a lot in small towns is "local legend." It is a term to describe individuals everyone in town either knows or have at least heard of from family or friends.

Although other people in other towns may use different words to describe the term, the definition is the same. Local legends are the people who, like an ingredient used in cooking, enhance the flavor of a town and make the place original.

Lucille Thompson, the cook at The Chalfonte Hotel, is definitely one such local legend. Her family — from herself and her

grandmother Clementine, to her mother Helen and sister Dot — has been part of the foundation of The Chalfonte's charm and great reputation for generations.

She started working at the Chalfonte in the 1940 when she was 7 and her sister Dot was 9.

"The first job I did was care of the bathhouses," Thompson said. "We'd take the guest bathing suits. We would collect them, get their room number, put a tag on the back of the suits and hang them up to dry. The next day, we would deliver their suits to their rooms. We were getting \$4.50 a week."

As she grew up, Thompson

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# Mullock seeking City Council seat

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Zack Mullock, a lifelong resident of Cape Island who is active in civic and charitable affairs, filed petitions Aug. 24 to become a candidate for Cape May City Council in November.

"There has been a rift in the town that needs to be repaired, and that won't happen unless we focus not on what divides us but on what unites us," Mullock said. "I say with pride that I have got along with everyone, and if elected I will bring people together

for the benefit of everyone in this beautiful city."

According to a news release, Mullock, whose family owns and operates the Chalfonte Hotel and Cape May National Golf Club, is a conservationist and preservationist who sits on Cape May's Historic Preservation Commission. He was born and raised in Cape May, attended Cape May City Elementary School and Our Lady Star of the Sea before attending Wildwood Catholic High School. He graduated from Mount St. Mary's University with

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# WASHINGTON INN

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