



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LEARN TO COOK OLD-SCHOOL WAY IN COLD SPRING

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Candidates share views on top issues in city

Parking, room tax, Convention Hall transparency, school funding all addressed

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Incumbent Mayor Edward Mahaney, mayoral candidate Chuck Lear and council candidates Patricia Hendricks and Zack Mullock shared their platforms, hopes and opinions during a forum Sept. 13 sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May.

Mahaney and Lear will face off for the mayor's seat, while Hendricks and Mullock will compete for the seat vacated when Terri Swain chose not to run for re-election. Balloting will take place Nov. 8.

The newcomers called for better marketing of Cape May, office space for council members to meet with the public, a community forum on building a parking



MAHANEY



LEAR



HENDRICKS



MULLOCK

garage, looking at financial records of Convention Hall and a settlement with

former police chief Robert Sheehan. Mahaney stood on his record of eight years

in office. Twelve questions were written by the chamber with three coming from the public.

Room tax

On a question of the city's use of \$1.4 million it collects annually from a tax on hotel/motel rooms and bed and breakfast accommodations and if more of

the funds should be used for marketing rather than a percentage for property tax relief, Mullock said the 2 percent the city receives should be used more for smart advertising. While the city receives 2 percent, the state collects 5 percent. He said much of that goes to the state's general fund and may be used to advertise

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Stockton not interested in Franklin St. School deal

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — During a Sept. 13 candidates forum, Mayor Edward Mahaney stated Stockton University was coming back on board to work with the city, putting up \$2 million to restore the school as a community center for the Center for Community Arts (CCA), offer adult courses and rehab the gym, but in a statement last week, the university said it has no interest in the Franklin Street School.

At the candidates forum, Mahaney said the CCA has been unable to fulfill its mission to do about \$2 million in improvements to the building.

"Now that Stockton University has fulfilled its mission to the city of Atlantic City and has straightened out their issues there, they're coming back on board to work with us to put up the \$2 million to rehab that building and put it back on line as a community center for the CCA programs and also adult learning and offer some courses there and thirdly to have the gym rehabilitated as well so we can use it as one of the sites for our recreation programs," he said.

Mahaney said the city installed a new air conditioning system in the gym in the past two weeks. He also stated Stockton University was going to install an elevator in the school.

According to Stockton University News and Media Relations Director Maryjane Briant, "Cape May's Franklin Street School is not currently a project we are discussing. There are no plans to advance this as a project for Stockton," according

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
Students, school staff, city officials and the school mascot cut the ribbon on the first phase of Lafayette Street Park improvements Sept. 13.

Students help cut ribbon on Lafayette Street Park

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With help from Cape May City Elementary School students, the city cut a yellow ribbon to officially open phase one of Lafayette Street Park on Sept. 13.

Mayor Edward Mahaney said the project dated back to 2009, when conceptual plans were presented by Temple University Landscape Architecture students. He said

the students worked with members of the community on the design. The city has a 25-year lease with the school for its portion of the Lafayette Street property.

"Phase one, as this is called, is the first step in this long process that will probably take four years with one step each year," said the mayor.

He thanked the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for a \$1.5 million grant funding the project.

Mahaney said the next step of the Lafayette Street Park project would be Dellas' Field and the area in front of it. He said the softball field would be completely rebuilt with a terrain including a knoll to watch the games. The phase will also provide parking spaces for the park, Mahaney said.

Phase three will stretch to St. John's Street. That phase will be funded by the

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Borough will revisit license to sell liquor

By BETTY WUND
Special to the Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY — Borough commissioners proposed a resolution during a work session Sept. 14 to put a restaurant liquor license out for bid and plan to present it Sept. 28.

They agreed with Commissioner Carol Sabo that it is the time to do it so that a restaurant has it in place for the next tourist season. The bidding would start at \$475,000.

The borough has sold one license to date, for the Sunset Liquors store. That license sold for \$615,000. A consumption license was put up for bid early this year with the bidding starting at \$550,000 but there were no bids.

After review and much discussion, the commissioners reduced the starting bid. The license will have the same requirements as the last offering of a restaurant license. Details of the requirements include limiting the hours of sale from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and requiring food be served with the liquor. The re-

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Volunteers sought to plant monarch butterfly habitat in Lower



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE
More than 1,000 monarch butterfly-friendly plants will be planted Saturday, Sept. 24, at Sunset Beach.

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Volunteers are being sought to plant more than 1,000 monarch butterfly-friendly plants beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 24, at Sunset Beach near the Concrete Ship and Higbee Beach.

Kevin Maloney, president of Cape May Maritime Museum and Education Center, updated Lower Township Council on Monday on a project to create a feeding habitat for migrating monarch butterflies. The monarchs feed here before making a 10-mile journey

across Delaware Bay on their southward trek to their winter home.

Maloney said the maritime museum proposed the project about a year ago. He said the museum's projects include the restoration of a portion of the former magnesite factory site and constructing a replica of an 1876 lifesaving station.

Part of the mandate for open space projects is to enhance public access and to protect natural habitat for wildlife and vegetation, Maloney said. He said he received an email from David Golden, state fish and wildlife chief for the state

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), proposing the creation of a migratory monarch butterfly habitat at the site.

The population of the monarchs has been decreasing due to loss of food sources along their 3,000-mile migratory route to Mexico, Maloney said. Mark Garland, head of the monarch migratory program of the Cape May Bird Observatory, was contacted. His vision is to set up kiosks on the site to provide information on how monarchs are tagged by volunteers and their lifecycle, Maloney said.

"The location is behind the dunes, which is ideal for the butterflies," he said. "They seem to really favor that area at different times. It's an ideal expansion to their habitat."

"Dave Golden said it's going to be a spectacular view during the migratory period to see all of these thousands of monarch butterflies in this habitat right here in our community," Maloney continued.

The property is the site of the former magnesite factory, which left behind magnesium-infused soil

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