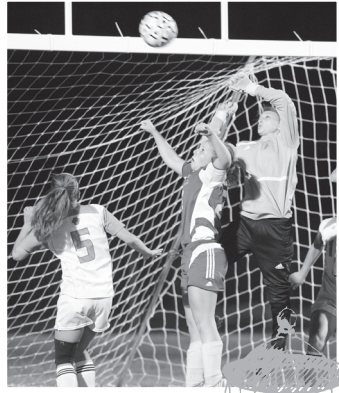




Book on Delaware Bay 'is for the birds'



Girls soccer beats OC 4-0 for win number 14



Radio drama at East Lynne Theatre Company



Cape May Star and Wave

158TH YEAR NO. 43 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, October 24, 2012 50¢

Candidates show differences at public forum

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Incumbent Mayor Ed Mahaney spoke about sustainability and economic growth at last week's candidates forum, while challenger Russell "Rusty" Chew said city government needs to be restored to the form selected by the popular vote.

Both mayoral candidates were responding to questions at the Taxpayers Association's Candidate Night, where they were asked what they believe are the top five issues that need to be addressed in the city.

Chew raised issues of restoring the government voted into effect by the people, involving the community in city interests and activities, getting citizens involved with boards and commissions, promoting tourism and treating all residents fairly and equally when enforcing ordinances. Mahaney's



Mayor Ed Mahaney



Russell "Rusty" Chew



Councilwoman Terri Swain



Shaine Meier



Daniel Kurkowski

issues related to developing a clear definition of sustainability, promoting economic growth, maintaining the infrastructure, encouraging affordability for residents and visitors and creating a long range plan for Cape May.

Candidate Night, hosted by the Taxpayers Association and moderated by the League of Women Voters, welcomed

roughly 100 people to the Cape May Elementary School auditorium.

A question from the Taxpayers Association asked candidates for a clear definition of the role of the mayor under the city's form of government, which is the council-manager form operating under the Faulkner Act. Chew, a retired police sergeant who served under

Mahaney, believes the current mayor has overstepped his bounds and authority by running day-to-day operations in the city, which is supposed to be the job of the city manager. He said the mayor is an equal among other council members with some special privileges, like signing contracts on behalf of the city and performing marriages.

"It's not only the duty of our government officials, but responsibility to uphold the constitution of our country and uphold and obey the laws of our state and municipal ordinances. This Faulkner Act is the law of our state. It has to be obeyed," Chew said.

Mahaney said he has "totally followed that form of government." He said people needed to recognize that

under any form of municipal government, the perception and reality is that any federal or state agency, private businessperson or citizen will typically approach the mayor first when they have a problem or proposal. He said the mayor's job is also networking and in the last two years brought in \$6.6 million

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Three vie for lone council seat

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Three candidates contending for one seat on Cape May City Council made their case at the Taxpayers Association's Candidate Night at the Cape May Elementary School on Oct. 18, which welcomed approximately 100 residents.

The event, moderated by members of the League of Women Voters, brought up issues of revenue and expenses in relation to the new Convention Hall, the role of council and the mayor under the Faulkner Act and ideas for improving tourism and parking. Incumbent Councilwoman Terri Swain, returning candidate Shaine Meier and newcomer

Dan Kurkowski took the stage and answered questions from the Taxpayers Association and the public. Candidates were first asked to tell residents what

to acquiring \$1.6 million in grants.

Meier, who is involved in many local organizations, such as the Zoning Board and Historical Society, promised to promote the city as a whole and not just Convention Hall.

"When businesses prosper, the taxpayers prosper," he said.

He promised to defend the city's form of government under the Faulkner Act and be certain only the city manager was handling day-to-day operations. Meier said he would also work to protect Cape May's historic landmark status.

Kurkowski, an attorney, said he had gone door-to-door around the city prior

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'I am my own woman. I am my own person to a fault.'

- Councilwoman Terri Swain

they felt were the top five issues that needed to be addressed in Cape May.

Swain, a local business owner, said creating more open space and parks, making Cape May a year round destination, improving tourism and attaining more revenue from Convention Hall, keeping a low tax rate and creating more parking were the top issues. She said the city has completed designs for new park space that led



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Trick or Treat on the Washington Street Mall

CAPE MAY - Cape May celebrated Halloween early this year with its parade and trick or treating on the Washington Street Mall, Oct. 21. Above are John, Brian and Mary Van de Vaarst of Cape May making it a family function. See more photos on page A10.

Beck calls Republican response to debate a 'cat and mouse game'

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - A debate between Lower Township candidates did not get off the ground, with a lack of communication probably to blame.

Mayor Mike Beck, however, said the Regular Republicans never intended to debate the

Independent team of candidates, which include Beck for mayor, Norris Clark for deputy mayor, and Jim Neville for Ward 2 councilman.

"We can't be a cat chasing a mouse on a string," Beck said. "They don't want to debate."

Beck said the team of incumbent Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare, incumbent Ward

2 Councilman Walt Craig, and mayoral candidate Erik Simonsen, has somehow taken things out of context.

"They don't have great candidates so they are putting a lot of money in campaigning," Beck said. "On the street people are not buying what they are selling. We prepared to debate. We wanted to debate so bad."

Speaking on behalf of the GOP ticket, Simonsen said, "The Simonsen, Lare and Craig team absolutely deny that we refuse to debate. In typical Mike Beck fashion, he has tried to bully a debate together, refused to negotiate reasonable procedures and wants to stack the room with his attack dogs."

Simonsen said the GOP tick-

et would be happy to debate and extended an invitation to Beck, Clark and Neville to participate in a radio debate on Oct. 29 at 7 p.m.

"That format would allow for us to reach a much larger audience and have a substantive discussion rather than a competition to see whose supporters can shout the loudest. But that is not what Beck

wants. He wants to control the format and put on a dog and pony show," Simonsen said.

Cape May County Herald reporter Jack Fichter and Cape May Star and Wave managing editor Christopher South were approached in early October by some citi

Please see Game, page A2

Cape May City Council introduces restrictions on tethering dogs

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - City council introduced an ordinance that, if passed, will prevent residents from tethering dogs outside on short chains for extended periods of time.

At the Oct. 16 regular meeting, council added language to the ordinance stating, no dog

shall be tethered or chained unless the owner or person responsible for the animal is on the property.

The ordinance was initially suggested by Councilwoman Deanna Fiocca following an incident that occurred Sept. 12 on Washington Street when a 12 week-old shepherd puppy was killed by a pit bull mix passing by with

its owner. Witnesses say the pup had been left unattended and was tangled up on a short tether. The pit bull attacked when its owner went to assist the puppy.

The ordinance as introduced creates a new section of city code 145-8 (Control of Dogs) and originally had four parts, but with the additional language now has five. The

ordinance states:

-A dog must be able to move freely with a tangle-free tether measuring a minimum of 15 feet in length. The chain shall not be long enough to allow the dog onto another property and must be made of lightweight, yet durable material.

- A doghouse or shelter must be accessible to the ani-

mal from the point where it is tethered.

-Non-spayed or neutered dogs are not permitted to be chained or tethered outside unless inside an enclosed pen or fencing.

-No dogs may be chained or tethered after dark (prior to sunrise or after sunset).

During public comment, Suzanne Taylor of

Washington Street said city council should consider creating an ordinance that bans all tethering of dogs.

"A tethered dog is not a happy dog," she said. "Just because someone is in the house, doesn't mean someone is watching the dog."

Taylor, a former employ-

Please see Dogs, page A2



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