

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, November 6, 2013 50¢



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West Cape May reelects Kaithern, Burke and Sabo

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH and CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - It appears there will be no change in the current West Cape May Board of Commissioners, according to unofficial results released by the borough clerk last night.

Results showed the incumbents leading by a near two-to-one ratio between Districts 1 and 2. In District 1, Mayor Pam Kaithern received 169 votes, Deputy Mayor Peter Burke had 165 and Commissioner Carol Sabo had 162. Candidates John Francis

III, David Wilburn Sr., and Stephanie LaTorre had 111, 109 and 108, respectively in the same district.

In District 2, Kaithern rallied 126 votes, Burke had 116 and Sabo received 111 while Francis, Wilburn and La Torre received 91, 73 and 83, respectively. The mail-in ballot results were not available before press time, but it seemed apparent to voters and community members in attendance at Borough Hall when the results were read that the incumbents would remain in office for another term.

Kaithern, who will be serv-

ing her fourth term in office, said she was overwhelmed with the amount of confidence the community has in the current commission.

"We'll continue to serve the borough with the highest integrity," she said of herself and her running mates.

Sabo, who will serve her first full term in office after finishing out former commissioner Ramsey Geyer's term for the past eight months, became emotional when she heard Clerk Elaine Wallace read the unofficial results.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to continue to serve," she said.

"It's just reaffirming to know that the way I've conducted myself up to this point continues to be the right way to do things and I'm not going to change now," she said. "It's an honor to serve this community. I'm taking it very seriously, and I'm so thankful the voters gave me the opportunity."

A speechless Deputy Mayor Peter Burke could only muster up two words to say after hearing the results, which were simply, "I'm relieved."

The first time candidates were subdued but gracious after the results were announced.

"I want to thank the people of West Cape May for coming out and supporting the process," John Francis said. "I think now we will all work together to make a better community."

Francis said one of the side effects of the campaign is that he has made two new friends for life.

"In that regard it is a win-win situation," he said.

Wilburn said he thought they had run a good campaign.

"We worked really hard, I guess just not hard enough," Wilburn said.

LaTorre said she thought

the indications were the results would have actually gone more in their favor.

"It was a good race, a fair race, and the community decided," she said. "But we are determined now to do new things."

LaTorre said for her part she intended to remain involved in the political process.

Erik Simonsen was the unofficial winner in Lower Township's Ward 3 Council race. Preliminary numbers had Simonsen winning with 1,287 votes to 454 for Glenn Douglass, who vacated the seat in September.

Couple quickly makes use of ruling on gay marriage

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY COUNTY - Following the New Jersey Supreme Court ruling on Oct. 21 to allow same-sex marriage in the state, Karen Burke and Betty Redman decided they had to act fast if they wanted to marry; worried Gov. Christie would try to appeal the court decision.

Christie has since opted not to appeal the decision, eliminating the last hurdle to legalized same-sex marriage in New Jersey and making it the 14th state, along with the District of Columbia, to allow gay couples to wed. Christie's efforts ceased when the State Supreme Court announced it would not grant the governor's request to block same-sex marriages while he appealed.

As soon as the ruling came out, couples across New Jersey began marrying on Monday, Oct. 21 after the stroke of midnight. Burke and Redman of Wildwood, who have been together for nearly 15 years, decided they would tie the knot and did so on Oct. 31.

"We have a dear friend who took us out to din-

ner the Sunday before the Monday (court ruling) and said to us 'Girls, it's time the two of you get married before our governor decides to contest it' and I think that's what really got the idea going," Burke said. "It was really what we wanted though. It was time."

Burke said it was exhilarating to be able to make such a commitment to one another in front of their friends and family, finally making it official and giving their relationship more validity. Not long before the court ruling, she and Redman had conversations about a civil union so they would be able to list one another as beneficiaries in case of the worst, but happily took advantage of the Supreme Court's recent decision.

"On a real personal level, it's just those things that a lot of people who have had the ability to be married don't really think about. It's small little things, it's the ability to be in the hospital room if something happens to one of us," Burke said. "We can have those benefits others have."

They registered to marry

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Having their pie and eating it too

Above, contestants participate in an annual pie eating contest sponsored by the Beach Plum Farm. A children's contest was held before the adults, who showed were more adept at eating pie without using their hands. See more photos on page A10.

Grants would be used for parks

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - City council approved two applications for grant funding the city would use for the development phase of the Lafayette Street Open Park.

The applications will be submitted to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority for streetscape enhancements and public improvements projects in Cape May.

"That will be phase one of development," Mayor Ed Mahaney said, referring to the Lafayette park project. "We have got Green Acres and Blue Acres, as well as

city Open Space fund money, to make the acquisition of the necessary properties. Now, we're into the next phase, which is the development aspect."

Mahaney said the city will hopefully receive a \$1.5 million grant to redo areas of the park located on Cape May Elementary School grounds that do not require remediation.

"It would be an upgrade of the big open field into a multi-purpose field," he said. "It's regulation for soccer, with the availability of doing lacrosse and field hockey on it, as well as a baseball practice field with lights on it."

He said the funding would

also be used for the renovation of Dellas Field into a softball field for children and adults with a slope for seating and picnicking. He said the third phase of development is between Dellas Field and the ball field.

Mahaney said the second grant through the NJEDA for public improvements for revitalization effort for either one of two projects. He said it could be used for the completion of a restroom facility near Convention Hall at the former Oasis Restaurant location or funding to finish the ongoing project at Rotary Park.

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Residents ask about Jackson Street access

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - About a dozen people came to the Oct. 15 city council meeting to hear what officials had to say regarding the Jackson Street Beach access point, which has been closed for nearly three years.

Maria Mulville of Lower Township spoke during public comment on behalf of the group who said the closing was not only an inconvenience, but has also created a hardship for disabled individuals. Mulville said she would like to know the process for reopening the beach access point.

City Manager Bruce

MacLeod said there were several reasons for the access point closing. He said there are insurance claims currently pending for trip and fall related issues. MacLeod recently spoke with Public Works Superintendent Bob Smith who said the claim was still under review in court.

MacLeod said roughly three years ago there was also a swarm of a particular type of bee that concerned beach tag personnel at the access point. He said the city contacted pest control companies in the hopes of eliminating the infestation, but attempts were unsuccessful.

MacLeod said he wasn't certain of the official designation

or type of insect, but to his understanding, its rare nesting habits were similar to that of the cicada, which can stay underground up to 17 years. Mayor Ed Mahaney said a former councilmember urged the Public Works Department to not disturb the nest and close the access point.

MacLeod claimed he had not heard any further comments about the insect, but since the access was closed, there has been an accumulation of dune growth and vegetation. He said the city would have to go through the proper process of obtaining permission to clear the veg

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