



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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LONGPORT WOMENS INVITATIONAL

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LT residents 'give a damn' about Wichterman's comment

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Residents who spoke at Monday's Lower Township Council meeting that, frankly, they give a damn about remarks made by Cape May Councilman Jack Wichterman.

Wichterman was quoted in another area newspaper making statements about Cape May's efforts to change the school funding formula. The current formula, based on property values, has Cape May paying 35 percent of the

Lower Cape May Regional School District budget, while accounting for just 5 percent of the students. Two weeks ago, the Lower Township mayor and council criticized efforts by the Cape May governing body to alter the funding formula saying the action would cause harm to the school and the township.

Wichterman made it clear where is his allegiance lies, saying, "I couldn't give a damn about the people in Lower, I'm working for the people in the City of Cape May."

Some Lower Township

residents didn't appreciate Wichterman's candor or choice of words.

"Councilman Wichterman said he really doesn't give a damn about the people of Lower Township. In what universe do you start negotiating by attacking people?" resident Janet Pitts said.

Resident Wayne Weisman also commented on Wichterman's remark.

"For an elected official to say something like that...he owes Lower Township an apology," he said.

"The man was out of line. Where does he think the

children of Lower Township came from," resident Robert Rizzo said. "They came from families who couldn't afford to live in Cape May."

Wichterman said his comment was taken out of context.

"I have a lot of friends in Lower Township – I play golf there every week – I have a sister who lives there and I certainly care about her. But the fact remains, no one there voted for me, and our responsibility is to the people of Cape May. We are doing what we are supposed to do, and I don't have any animosity to

anyone there," Wichterman said.

Pitts said a less aggressive approach would be more conducive to negotiation. She also said while Wichterman said no one from Lower Township had ever approached him to discuss the funding formula, she said she talked to him after a school board meeting.

"I talked to him. I wanted to make my feelings known as a (Lower Township) taxpayer and resident," she said.

Comments came as Lower Township Council prepared to vote on a resolution objecting to Cape May's efforts to

change the funding formula, perhaps including withdrawing from the district or dissolving the regional school district.

Lower Township Resolution 2013-208, titled "A Resolution Regarding the School Funding Issue," says the school district was formed in 1956, and for more than 35 years has been funded by a tax levy based on the Equalized Assessed Value (EAV) of each municipality.

The resolution says the EAV method divides the cost of funding the school district

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Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave
Above, Cape May's Emergency Management Coordinator Bob Smith.

Smith is appointed for third term as EM chief

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – As the storms have seemed to worsen along the Jersey coast in recent years, Robert Smith continues efforts to enhance the safety and sustainability of Cape May and its residents in the event of a disaster.

Smith has been appointed for the third time to a three-year term as Cape May's

Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC). Smith has served as the assistant EMC in the past, as well, and by the end of this term will have over 20 years of experience in emergency management.

Smith, who is also superintendent of Cape May's Public Works Department, said being an EMC, especially in Cape May County,

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Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Snow Leopard mother and cub

Above, the Cape May County Park and Zoo's female snow leopard, Himani, and one of her yet to be named cubs gaze off into the distance, perhaps thinking about their native climate. Snow leopards live in higher elevations, and recent high temperatures might cause the snow leopards to retreat into their air-conditioned shelter. Himani has had a litter in each of the last four years – the latest, a male and a female, were introduced to the public on July 10. See **related story and photos on page A3**.

Dunes, smoking ban among Point topics

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT – Mayor Skip Stanger told the public at last week's commission meeting, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled the Borough of Harvey Cedars had a right to be heard in a lawsuit involving dunes.

The case involved a couple in the Harvey Cedars section of Long Beach Island. The couple had been awarded \$375,000 from a lower court because the dune blocked

their view of the ocean.

According to Stanger, the high court's decision had not dealt with dunes or the borough's right to go on someone's property and alter or increase the dunes.

"On appeal, the Supreme Court over-ruled the decision, and said the borough had a right to be heard," Stanger said.

"One thing that is important to consider is where the

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No change for parking, advisory group says

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – After three meetings, the Shared Parking Advisory Committee has found no reason to alter the current city parking code and agreed the Planning and Zoning Boards should continue hearing business and property owners' requests for variances.

According to committee chairman Deputy Mayor William Murray, the group will submit their findings and final conclusion to city

council as well as to the zoning and planning boards but will continue exploring other options to alleviate Cape May's parking problem. At the July 12 meeting, each member provided input on whether shared parking was desirable, and if so, how it could be implemented in Cape May.

Charles Hendricks said he felt there wasn't a demand for shared parking in the city and didn't feel it could be efficiently enforced if it

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WCM roadwork schedule

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY – Borough construction for water and sewer system improvements will stop at the end of the July and resume in early September, Borough Engineer Ray Roberts said.

At the July 10 Board of Commissioners meeting, Roberts said water system improvements and repaving on Stewart Lane and Landis Avenue have been completed. Third Avenue was base-paved on July 8 and top, course paving began Monday following an extension of the existing sewer pipe 220 feet

toward Morrison.

Top course paving on Fifth Avenue began concurrently with Third Avenue.

Sewer improvements on Fourth Avenue extending across Columbia Avenue to Green Street have also been completed. Roberts said the street will be base-paved this week with the top course being installed the week of July 22.

He said the latest revised schedule from contractor, F.W. Shawl and Sons, Inc., says Third, Fourth and Fifth avenues will be completed by July 26, which is when sum-

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