

Cape May Star and Wave



159TH YEAR NO. 36 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, September 4, 2013 50¢



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Christie visits Cape May, promises to get back to normal

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – In front of hundreds of people gathered on the Washington Street Mall for his visit, Gov. Chris Christie promised to make it his mission to never let anyone or anything get in his way of helping those still suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

“My job is great, but a mission is something very different. A mission is something sacred that you have a moral obligation to complete to the best of your ability. And I know that this job changed to a mission on Oct. 29,” Christie said. “The promise I’ll leave you with here today is that there will not be anyone or anything that is going to successfully get in between me and the completion of the mission that this storm laid at our feet.”

“I will not let the people of this region or this country forget what New Jersey is going through and I will not rest until every one of our 8.8 million people have their lives back to normal and can live happily again in this state...”

Before bringing Christie to the podium, Mayor Ed Mahaney said Cape May has planned and implemented a sustainability program that will allow the city to be viable for the next 20 years or more. He said the viability is based upon economic growth, sus-

taining environmental initiatives, keeping Cape May affordable for residents and visitors and having the infrastructure to continue providing efficient resources to those individuals.

“We wouldn’t have been able to accomplish any of that without the proactive leadership and the visionary drive of our governor and lieutenant governor. They have been behind us the whole way,” Mahaney said. “They have provided us with the physical, human and financial resources to implement all the strategies we needed to get back to a stable and growing environment.”

Mahaney said Christie was also on the frontlines during Superstorm Sandy as well as the other brutal storms that have clashed with New Jersey over the last few years and was always available by phone to provide any assistance he could.

“Governor Christie was not only our leader – he was on the ground with us and he made certain all of us along the shore and everyone in New Jersey had the resources we needed to overcome the daunting challenges we faced,” Mahaney said. “He was always demanding three things – responsibility, productivity and being truthful, and that’s what we’ve done.”

After Mahaney mentioned the blizzard of 2010, Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Hurricane Sandy of 2012,



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Cape May Mayor Ed Mahaney greets New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie upon his arrival at the Washington Street Mall in Cape May, Aug. 28. Christie was welcomed by several hundred people who wanted autographs and photos taken with the governor.

which all took their toll on New Jersey while Christie has been in office, the governor couldn’t help but poke

fun at himself when he took the podium.

“The mayor in introducing me, reviewing the list

of horrors – blizzards, hurricanes...locusts! It seems to be like everything has happened while I’ve been gover-

nor. I’m like the disaster governor around here,” Christie

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Driveway parking advanced

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Cape May City Council introduced an ordinance to allow homeowners to obtain a permit to park in front of their own driveways.

As introduced at the Aug. 20 meeting, the ordinance would reserve the right of the city to deny a permit if parking at the end of a driveway would interfere with public on-street parking spaces. During the Aug. 6 regular council meeting, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said a number of these special permits have been issued to residents with narrow driveways, in which the vehicle they are driving

stretches across the width of the driveway and interferes with public parking on either side.

“In some cases if we, in fact, grant that privilege to a property owner that has a driveway or off-street parking, we may end up...losing an already existing parking space on the street,” MacLeod said. “What we’re asking for is an amendment that would allow a review process to determine whether the request being made negatively impacts a loss of on-street parking. I think it’s a valid point the city should consider.”

He said some driveways are

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Three announce run for WCM Board of Commissioners

WEST CAPE MAY – John Francis, Ph.D., David Wilburn and Stephanie La Torre announced they will seek election to the West Cape May Board of Commissioners in the upcoming Nov. 5 election under the banner “Commissioners for All the People.”

Dr. John Francis is an environmental educator and former United Nations Goodwill Ambassador. David Wilburn is a commercial fisherman and community volunteer. Stephanie La Torre is a local businesswoman and mother of four. All have deep roots in the community and are long-term residents.

The candidates acknowledged the work attempted by the current commissioners but believe with their collective diverse experience they



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Above, three candidates are challenging the incumbents for the three Board of Commissioners seats in West Cape May. Left to right are Stephanie La Torre, David Wilburn and Dr. John Francis.

can better respond to and achieve the community’s

desire to chart a new course, based upon sound, long-term

planning and fiscal policies not reliant on one-time, unsustainable, stop-gap measures. Moreover, the candidates want to foster a positive atmosphere within the borough encouraging all residents to express their concerns, views and ideas to the commissioners. They pledge to listen to the voices of the community in order to serve everyone. In that regard, the spirit of the candidates’ platform is reflected in five words: Commissioners for All the People.

La Torre has a long record of community and missionary service as well as more than 30 years of corporate management and local business experience. La Torre wants to recharge the com-

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Cape May lifeguard hours

CAPE MAY – The last day for lifeguard duty on Cape May beaches for the summer will be Sunday, Sept. 8, according to Joe Sutter of the Beach Patrol Administration Office.

Sutter said between now and Sept. 8, guards will be on duty from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, as opposed to the usual 5:30 p.m. He said

after Sept. 8 and through the end of the month lifeguards and cleanup crewmembers will be prepping the beaches and lifeguard headquarters for winter. Sutter said during the winterization process lifeguards would still respond to emergencies if necessary, but they will not officially be on duty.

Pension law forces Douglass to resign, run for own council seat

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Lower Township Ward 3 Councilman Glenn Douglass was forced to resign his elected office due to a Catch 22 involving the state Division of Pensions and Benefits.

The move will cause him to have to run for reelection, Nov. 5, for his own unexpired term.

“It came as a surprise to me along with everyone else,” Douglass said.

Douglass, who retired Sept. 1 from the New Jersey Department of Corrections, was told he could not receive a Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) pension, while paying into the system from an elected position.

Douglass said he filed paperwork to retire Sept. 1, and went to Trenton for retirement counseling; how-

ever, he said the people in Pensions never told him anything about this issue. He said as a result of a change in the law, effective June 28, 2011, he was forced to leave both his state job and step down as a councilman.

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