

2012

Continued from page A1

Sen. Jeff Van Drew to simplify the process of removing abandoned vessels from the state's waterways by taking title transfers out of the courts. Prior to Van Drew's legislation, a person or entity, such as a municipality, seeking the title to an abandoned vessel was required to apply to a court for the title transfer. The new law (S-2909) eliminates that requirement. The application is now sent to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (NJMVC) instead.

Lack of quorum delays, cancels LT Council meeting

VILLAS - Two members of Lower Township Council showed up for a regularly scheduled meeting and stayed an hour and a half before Mayor Mike Beck announced no meeting would be held. Beck and Councilman Glenn Douglass showed up for the meeting, when two other council members, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare and Councilman Thomas Conrad were on vacation. Meanwhile, the Lower Township Republican Committee was in their own meeting in the nearby Senior Center selecting their appointment to fill the vacant Ward 2 council seat, which had been vacant since Dec. 14, 2011.

Tourism Utility budget created

CAPE MAY - In his proposed 2012 Cape May City Budget, City Manager Bruce MacLeod announced the new Convention Hall would be operating through the new Tourism Utility with a \$1,075,000 budget. The Tourism Utility was created to begin in 2012 as a self-liquidating utility, like the Water-Sewer Utility and Beach Utility. The initial budget for the Tourism Utility was developed using funding from numerous sources. Council voted to eliminate the Tourism Commission in late 2011, and its \$72,500 surplus was transferred to the new utility's budget. The dedicated recreation account was also closed by the city, and the remaining \$22,500 from that account was also added to the Tourism Utility budget.

FEBRUARY 2012

Cape May, Stockton hosting summer concert series

CAPE MAY - The city of Cape May and the Richard

Stockton College have established an agreement for a summer concert series and children's theater program at the new Convention Hall in 2012. Mayor Edward Mahaney and Executive Vice President of Stockton College, Dr. Harvey Kesselman signed an agreement to make Cape May's Convention Hall the new home of The Stockton Performing Art Center's (PAC) "Stockton Goes to the Beach Concerts" and Summer Children's Theater.

Council discusses non-smoking beaches

CAPE MAY - Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said he would like city council to once again discuss the idea of non-smoking beaches in Cape May. Wichterman said he requested feedback in writing from council members regarding the re-introduction of the ordinance creating non-smoking beaches. He said he requested their response a month prior and received no response. Wichterman initially suggested a non-smoking ordinance for city beaches in late summer 2011.

Residents object to fee increase

CAPE MAY - Several residents approached Cape May City Council to address the issue of a price increase in the city's jazzercise program at the Franklin Street Civic Center. Harriett Sossion of the Poor Richard's Inn, said during public comment that the program is losing members due to the price per class going from \$3 to \$5 just over a month ago. Sossion is a 15-year member of the program and made it clear to council that she personally had no problem with the price increase, but many of the class members were senior citizens on fixed incomes who would have trouble paying for the 60 percent increase.

Full council makes appointments

VILLAS - With five members present, Lower Township Council appointed a new LTMUA board member following a 3-2 vote. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare, Councilman Tom Conrad and newly appointed Councilman Walt Craig voted to appoint Tom Frisoli to the board. Councilman Glenn Douglass and Mayor Mike Beck voted against Frisoli's appointment. Douglass said in light of the previous deadlocked vote on the appointment of Frisoli

and former MUA director Mike DeMarcanonio, he believed it would be appropriate to nominate someone else for the position. Douglass nominated Steve Sheftz, who previously served on the board of the Lower Township



Robert Klein performing at Convention Hall

Municipal Utilities Authority.

LT Council members asking for external reviews

VILLAS - A division that has developed in Lower Township Council has led to different sides asking for external reviews of council activities. Resolution 2012-56 was a request by council for the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office to investigate occurrences from the Jan. 18 meeting, which was not held due to the lack of a quorum. On Jan. 18, Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare and Councilman Tom Conrad were on vacation. The Ward 2 seat was vacant, and the Lower Township Republican Committee was meeting at the Senior Center to select a candidate to fill the vacancy. Mayor Mike Beck asked that since council wished to investigate circumstances regarding filling the Ward 2 vacancy, whether the Ward 2 councilman could participate in voting on that request.

Lower policy on email

VILLAS - Lower Township Council voted 5-0 to pass Ordinance 2012-01 on second reading, amending the township's administrative code to include policies on attendance, training, and email communications between

council members. The section referring to email came as a result of a letter from Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor asking council to establish a policy on email. Taylor questioned the use of email in discussions regard-

Representatives of The Cape May Maritime Museum and Educational Foundation met with representatives of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, who liked the idea of building a replica lifesaving station at Steamboat Landing. Foundation president Kevin Maloney said he met with the DEP and Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck and Councilman Glenn Douglass at the end of January to look at a location for a replica 1876 Lifesaving Station to be constructed facing the Delaware Bay near Sunset Beach.

New payment plan for jazzercise

CAPE MAY - The city came up with a new payment system for the jazzercise program after participants came to a city council meeting and spoke out against a 60 percent price increase per class. City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the price per class went from \$3 to \$5 at the start of 2012. The city also did away with a punch card system that gave class members a discount for every 10 classes. MacLeod said the punch cards caused an issue due to the difficulty of tracking them and instructors being unable to ensure they were being punched after each class.

WCM fire company to improve alarm system

WEST CAPE MAY - The West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company will need to improve the fire alarm system in its social hall if it is to meet regulations set forth in the fire codes. At the Feb. 8 regular West Cape May Board of Commissioners meeting, Public Safety Commissioner Ramsey Geyer said the fire hall has been non-compliant with certain fire code regulations and American Disability Act (ADA) requirements for several years.

WCM solicits input on moving elections

WEST CAPE MAY - The West Cape May Board of Commissioners sought public feedback as to whether they should move the borough elections from May to November in 2013. Mayor Pam Kaithern said the state has allowed non-partisan May elections to be moved to November if the municipalities choose to. She said the change could have benefits and drawbacks, so input from local residents would help in making a final decision.

Water/Sewer improvements in WCM

WEST CAPE MAY - A three-phase project to improve the water and sewer infrastructure for residents in West Cape May was announced for September 2012. In August 2011, the borough received a funding package that included a grant for \$708,000 and a low interest loan of \$2,305,000 from the Rural Development Water and Environmental Program administered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

South Jersey Gas project moving along

CAPE MAY POINT - Trucks and crews began working non-stop since gas main installation began in October 2011. Todd Gordon, a sales manager with South Jersey Gas, said after about five months of construction, they had about 90 percent of the gas mains installed in Cape May Point. Gordon said South Jersey Gas received responses from about 400 residents interested in natural gas service. Of that number, about 300 turned in applications, and 190 customers have had gas service hooked up.

Simonsen, Lare form team for LT leadership

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Erik Simonsen, who had to give up his Ward 2 council seat in December, joined with Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare to run for council leadership positions in the November

general election. Simonsen and Lare issued a joint press release announcing Simonsen would run for mayor, while Lare would run for reelection. Simonsen said after moving out of the ward disqualified him from serving as a ward councilman, he was interested in running for another council seat.

Douglass investigates complaint procedures with DCA, law board

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Ward 3 Councilman Glenn Douglass investigated how to file complaints with the Department of Community Affairs and District 1 Attorney Ethics Review Board in light of alleged conflicts of interest between council members and the township solicitor. He said a citizen had asked whether Councilman Tom Conrad, as a member of the Lower Township Republican Committee and a councilman, had a conflict in voting for Walt Craig to fill the vacant Ward 2 seat.

Way is paved for Route 9 road project completion

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Township Manager Mike Voll said utility work that was holding up a road extension project has been completed and the project should be completed on time. The State of New Jersey has been working on extending Breakwater and Tabernacle Roads in order to meet Route 9. When completed, the signaled intersections will replace Bennett's Crossing and Sally Marshall Crossing. Bennett's Crossing, near Lower Cape May Regional High School does not have a traffic signal, and has been the site of several accidents, including fatal accidents.

Beck said he never wanted contention

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck said he never wanted contention on council, and placed his former running mate at the center of the conflict. Beck said he would never allow the township to be used for political purposes, which is what he alleged some of his fellow council members are doing.

First Advisory Committee on Tourism meeting

CAPE MAY - The Advisory Committee on Tourism held its first official meeting last Thursday, as local organization representatives met to discuss the future of Cape May and how to market it as a destination. The committee was created as part of the new Tourism Utility and will report to city council with recommendations with regards to tourism, marketing and local events, such as parades and events that will be held at the new Convention Hall. Meetings will be held six times a year. The objectives of the initial meeting were to discuss tourism marketing in and around the city, branding Cape May, and a logo contest for tourism marketing and the recreation department.

LT Council passes ban on wood boilers

VILLAS - Lower Township Council voted 3-2 to pass Ordinance 2012-02, banning Outdoor Wood Boilers (OWB) in the township. The ordinance was created at the request of residents of Andrielle Avenue, who complained about the smoke and smell from a neighbor's OWB on an adjacent street. The ordinance banned the boilers and established penalties for violations.

Beck, residents take exception to nominations

VILLAS - Mayor Mike Beck and a number of residents found fault with a resolution to appoint three members to a liaison committee. Deputy Mayor Kevin Lare asked for a resolution to create a "Special Committee for Liaison to the Cape May County Board of Chosen Freeholders with Regard to Economic Development at the Cape May County Airport." Lare nominated himself and Ward 2 Councilman Walt Craig to be named to the committee.

Cape May wants land on Lafayette Street

CAPE MAY - The city is continuing its efforts to purchase land along Lafayette Street by applying for a grant through the new state Department of Environmental Protection Blue Acres program. The Blue Acres program assists municipalities in their effort

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Wichterman continues with smoking ban

CAPE MAY - City council plans more discussion on the proposed smoking ban on Cape May beaches, but as for now smoking will still be permitted on the beachfront during the 2012 summer season. Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman has been retrieving feedback from other council members about their views on a beach smoking ban. Council agreed to put together a committee to look into the issue, consisting of beach taggers, beach patrol members, police department representatives and Wichterman, who suggested the ban.

Maritime Museum reps meet with DEP

LOWER TOWNSHIP -

TIDES JANUARY 2013 Eastern Standard Time

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
2	10:41	11:23	4:21	5:01
3	11:25		5:11	5:45
4	12:13	12:16	6:09	6:35
5	1:12	1:17	7:14	7:32
6	2:16	2:26	8:24	8:33
7	3:21	3:37	9:32	9:36
8	4:23	4:45	10:36	10:37

Moon Phases

Last Quarter, Jan. 4
New Moon, Jan. 11
First Quarter, Jan. 18
Full Moon, Jan. 26
Perigee, Jan. 10
Apogee, Jan. 22

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