



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

Above left, U.S. Sen. Cory Booker speaks to Vince Casale's Shoes, in business on the Washington Street Mall since 1957. Above center, Booker shares a light moment during a stop at Fralinger's Candy. Above right, Booker shakes hands with the shop keeper at Cape May Pizza and Popcorn. Booker earlier toured the U.S. Coast Guard base and later spoke to commercial fishermen at Lund's Fisheries.

## Booker

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Thornton also commended Booker for visiting the area, saying he could not remember a U.S. senator visiting Cape May County in 20 years. Several have, at least once, including the other Democratic senator, Sen. Robert Menendez.

Mahaney told Booker the city of Cape May has less than 4,000 year round residents, a number that swells to 45,000 per day in the summer.

"The three Cape Mays all work together," Mahaney said. "People come to the Cape Mays for the same reasons."

vanHeeswyk told Booker about birding industry in the

Cape Mays.

"(Cape May Point is) very, very small, but we have great birding," she said.

vanHeeswyk said the cost of providing for tourism is returned many-fold. Bashaw said there has definitely been an increase in European bird watchers staying at Congress Hall.

"One hook to Europe is our birding," Bashaw said. "No pun intended, but it's a real feather in our cap."

Bashaw also commented on the spirit of bipartisanship that exists, particularly in the area of promoting tourism.

"We live in a very bipartisan community; there is very good collaboration between groups of governmental lead-

ers," he said.

Prior to walking the Washington Street Mall, Mahaney advised Booker this was a six-week period when a lot of the shopkeepers took their vacations.

"But I expect about half the businesses will be open," he said.

Booker said that this was his first trip to Cape May, but he had already fallen in love with the town. The junior senator talked briefly about his political career. He talked about being raised in Harrington Park, which he said was a town of about 2,000 people. He was a Newark City Councilor before becoming mayor in 2006. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in

a special election on Oct. 16, 2013, to fill the seat of Sen. Frank Lautenberg, who died in office.

Booker said he considered Cape May a real treasure, and said he was blown away by the level of the fishing industry, as well as the Coast Guard and tourism industry. He said he was in a good position to help Cape May County.

"I'm very blessed to have landed in three committees - public works, small business, and the commerce and transportation committees," he said.

Booker is a member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Environment and Public

Works, and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

"Those three committees are very supportive of your vision plan," he said.

Booker told the local officials not to hesitate to try to get in touch with him.

"I'm very out there and hands on. Please engage with us," he said.

He told the officials not to let the economy be a stumbling block, saying he was Mayor of Newark during the worst economic stretch.

"Now we are having the biggest boon in New Jersey because we got very creative," he said.

Booker mentioned a few outside the box projects he

worked on in Newark, such as getting banks to end minimum balance requirements for personal accounts, and setting up an illegal gun tipline.

Booker also said there are a lot of state and federal assistance dollars being left on the table because people don't know about them.

"People don't know about tax credits," he said.

Booker ended his comments, saying, "I will not forget South Jersey, I will be the senator who is more ubiquitous than oxygen in New Jersey."

## Road

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the permitting will happen. It's a question of whether there will be fines," Loper said.

In his monthly report Loper covered the results of replacement of the sewer vacuum truck, which is ongoing. He said there is a six or seven month wait for a truck once the specs are submitted.

Marian Doyle and other residents of Sheridan Boulevard have submitted a petition for sewer service to be installed

there. Loper is working on the probability of bringing sewer service to Sheridan Boulevard and other roads in that part of the township.

"The county told Mrs. Doyle the waste water management plan map has been approved and we are good to go. The DEP says the report has not been approved. We are told we can proceed in this matter. We have a budget for this year," said Loper.

Loper asked the board for approval to continue updating the wells with the

Supervisory Controlled Data Acquisition (SCDA) system. The system takes the information from the well and analyzes the chlorine constantly. It adjusts the pumps. Only one well has the full system installed. If the costs are high to get the full system for all the pumps he suggests that the radio equipment and the bare necessities including the flow meters be installed. He feels it is a useful system but we are not using it to our advantage unless all the wells have the system installed.

DeBlasio gave his year-end report. He said the firm has completed five capital projects, one grant loan application for the east Villas water main project, 3,800 hours working for the MUA, managed two projects, saw the Townbank Phase II and III water projects totaling over \$5 million completed with a \$1.27 million surplus. This allowed for water mains to be installed on Texas, Vermont, Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Oregon, Iowa, Idaho, States, and Nevada

Avenues, and more streets not originally included.

"The Townbank project was completed with 1,240,000 feet of pipe installing 2,400 water services. Water allocation increased from 863 million gallons a year to 1,034 million gallons a year," DeBlasio said.

Comments from the public drew a statement from Don Embs, an MUA employee. He said, "I want to commend the board for giving Mr. Loper the job of interim director. He is a personable person and

works well with the staff."

After a lengthy closed session involving attorney/client privilege the board returned to the meeting room and approved filing an application with the USDA for installation of water mains to connect 1,500 residents in the east Villas to township water service. Nels Johnson, chairman, announced that other results of the closed session are legal matters that cannot be discussed in open session.

## License

Continued from page A1

in residential areas. The petition succeeded and the hours remained the same, set from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Borough code also states that during periods when sales of alcoholic beverages are prohibited, the entire licensed premises shall be closed and no person shall

be admitted or permitted to remain therein, except the licensee or employees of the establishment.

No licensee or employee of a licensee shall sell, serve or deliver, directly or indirectly, any alcoholic beverages to any intoxicated person or persons under the legal age. No licensee shall operate within 1,000 feet of a pub-

lic building, school or house of worship. The holder of a consumption license shall be a restaurant serving food. With the exception of restaurant patrons waiting for a table, "bar-type" service of liquor alone shall not be permitted.

The distribution license sold for \$615,000 in late 2011, which led to the establishment of Sunset Liquors on Sunset Boulevard. Residents had previously voted that the money made from the licenses be used for borough tax relief over several years. If the consumption license is sold, it will also be used for tax relief. The minimum bid for the consumption license when it was last offered was \$500,000.

## CM increases beach tag fees

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Fees for the three-day, weekly and presale seasonal beach tag prices will increase this month as well as in 2015, after city council voted to pass the ordinance yesterday.

Effective Jan. 28, which will be 20 days after the ordinance passed, the three-day tag be raised from \$10 to \$12 and the presale seasonal tag will increase from \$15 to \$20. Beginning Jan. 1, 2015, the weekly beach tag (eight day tag) fee will increase from \$15 to \$18.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the city raised \$2,113,008 in beach tag revenue for 2013, which is

an approximate \$163,000 improvement over 2012. The city raised the cost of daily beach tags in 2012 from \$5 to \$6 for 2013, hoping to make additional revenue for building a new multi-purpose facility at the former Oasis Restaurant site, which the city has earmarked \$250,000 for.

"We had hoped to make an additional \$250,000 this year, but we did not reach our goal," Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said despite falling short of the \$250,000 goal, the city did apply for grant funding through the state Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to upgrade the former restaurant into the multi-purpose facility. During public comment, Jerry Gaffney

of Columbia Avenue asked if the project would get underway this year.

"We believe we can get it done and we want to get it done," Mahaney responded on behalf of council. "If we don't get the grant from the state, the project will go on anyway."

MacLeod said even though the city made \$163,000 more for the Beach Utility in 2013 than in 2012, it is still a difficult budget to work with for 2014 because expenses have also risen.

At a December meeting when the increases were first considered, Mahaney said the supplementary revenue will help cover the additional operating costs, the restroom project and keep Cape May beaches up to par with what people expect. He said Cape May is also convenient as it offers more types of beach tags than any other shore town in the state to suit all visitors no matter how long

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