

LTMUA

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man of the LTMUA Board of Directors, has made a study of the water supply issue in the Town Bank area. Sheftz said Lower Township has the largest population of any municipality in Cape May County, and listed seven municipalities that when combined still have a small population than Lower Township.

While the population has grown from 2,700 people in 1950 to 22,866 in 2012, he said the number of businesses at the Cape May County Airport has declined, as has the demand there for water. The summer population in 2010 reached 91,492.

Beside the growing demand, Sheftz also highlighted the contamination level in the Town Bank area. He said a portion of the Villas section of Lower Township was added to the municipal water system when volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were discovered in well water. He said the situation in Town Bank was much worse. He said the Cape May County Health Department confirmed the presence of VOCs in the water.

"These problems are real, beyond any reasonable doubt, they are real," Sheftz said. "I'm tired of seeing people getting sick and even dying."

Jerome Keelen from the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Financing Agency said he was well acquainted with Sheftz and the water contamination problem in Town Bank. He said his agency offers 0-percent loans of up to \$10,000 for homeowners to hook up to the municipal water supply. Lower Township Council passed legislation requiring residents to hook up to the municipal water supply when it was available on their street.

"In 2002, the Health Department and the DEP did site analysis of what was being used as potable water and found high levels of trichloroethylene, tetrachloroethylene (and other VOCs). People are still drinking the stuff," Keelen said.

"I strongly urge the DEP to look at their own research and come to the conclusion something must be done," Keelen said.

Former LTMUA executive director Mike Demarcantonio referred to a letter from the city of Cape May objecting to the increase in water allocation. He said there would be no adverse effect, and Cape May would continue to receive their allocation per a 1992 agreement. He also said the Cape May Desalination Plant is only operating at half capacity, implying they could cover their own need.

Cape May City Manager Bruce MacLeod spoke in opposition of the LTMUA application. MacLeod said Cape May provides water not just to Cape May, but to Cape May Point, West Cape May, and a portion of Lower Township.

He said of seven wells available for use by the city and LTMUA, Wells 1 and 2 were capped, Wells 3 and 4 were inactive due to salt water intrusion, and Well 5 is the only good well in the Cohansey Aquifer. He said Wells 6 and 7 provide water to the desalination plant. He said the plant is capable of producing 2 million gallons of water per day. He said the plant has a potable water

recovery rate of 68 percent. "In 1995 to 1998, the city invested \$5 million in the desal plant to ensure there was an adequate water supply," MacLeod said.

He said when Cape May was faced with having to do something about their water supply, they looked at eight alternatives, and building a desalination plant was not the cheapest way to go. He said Cape May could support the LTMUA application if there were reports stating an increased water allocation in Lower Township would not negatively impact Cape May wells.

"Eventually, suppliers need to find other sources, and the cost of the investment should not be a reason to look for an increase in allocation," MacLeod said.

The LTMUA and New Jersey American applications were both opposed by environmental groups such as the Pinelands Preservation Alliance, the American Littoral Society, the New Jersey Sierra Club, and the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions (ANJEC).

Jessica Daher from the American Littoral Society said the increase in allocation would simply exacerbate the salt water intrusion issue and have a negative impact on the natural environment. Daher said the LTMUA application was essentially asking to double the township's allocation.

The LTMUA's water allocation is currently 93 million gallons per day and 868 million gallons per year. The request is to increase the allocation to 143 million gallons per day, and 1,330 million gallons per year. The town-

ship on average used 38.17 million gallons per day in 2011.

The DEP has proposed permitting the LTMUA to use 6.12 million gallons per day, 143 million gallons per month, and 1,078.152 million gallons per year (252 MGY less than requested).

The DEP has requested a new well at the airport, Well 8, which would be permitted to produce 1,000 gallons per minute. The DEP proposed increasing the output on Well 7 from 600 gallons per minute to 800 gallons per minute, increasing Well 9 from 500 gpm to 600 gpm, reducing output on Well 1 from 850 to 800 gpm, and stabling Well 8 with the 1,000 gpm flow.

"The entire request was not approved as demands were not met," Barbara Ware of the Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting said.

She said the LTMUA would also be required to prepare an alternate water supply plan due to salt water intrusion, which would have to be submitted to the bureau within one year. The LTMUA would have to perform sample analysis and compile sodium and chloride levels in all its wells and calculate an average four times per year - in March, June, September and December.

Jennifer Myers of the Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting said all permits issued in Cape May County would include enhanced water conservation requirements.



Above, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamie Vanacore, a rescue swimmer from Air Station Atlantic City spoke to recruits about her role in the Coast Guard.

Videos

Continued from page A1

how vital it was to be pushed daily to their mental, physical and emotional limits, so they are prepared upon graduation. She said A School was nothing short of strenuous.

"It was work, but being a rescue swimmer is the best job in the Coast Guard," Vanacore said. "I really enjoy what I do. The Coast Guard has given me everything I could ask for."

She said a majority of recruits might come into the Coast Guard with no idea of what field they wish to pursue, but they all have one thing in common - the desire to save lives and protect the American people.

"That's a given," she said. "It's what the Coast Guard is all about."

Most of the videos featured in the contest relate to rescue missions, such as the video called "HMS Bounty rescue during Hurricane Sandy,"

which took the top spot among the recruits. Vanacore's "So Others May Live" was the second place video and "Surf's Up" came in third - a video filmed from a Coast Guard patrol boat near Station Coos Bay, Ore.

Capt. Bill Kelly, commanding officer of Training Center Cape May, said all the of the videos, whether filmed during training or real operations show the dedication of Coast Guardsmen and the difficult tasks they perform on a daily basis.

"Coast Guardsmen are quiet heroes who rarely seek recognition for the important, and many times, dangerous work they do," Kelly said in a press release. "This gives us an opportunity to educate the public about our service and recognize Coast Guardsmen everywhere for their contributions to our Nation."

Energy

Continued from page A1

helping to "reinvigorate the economy."

"Fishermen's Energy is honored to receive this award. Being selected in a national competitive process is a tremendous acknowledgement of support for the project," Wissemann said. "This project positions New Jersey as a leader in driving the long term energy solution."

Jackson considers the dem-

onstrator project to be a showcase for offshore wind energy and could be the catalyst needed to jumpstart the offshore wind industry around the state and country.

Construction in Atlantic City is planned to begin onshore in 2013 with offshore construction and commissioning of the nation's first connected offshore wind farm grid in 2014. Fishermen's Energy is currently focusing on the final contractor selec-

tion for the project. For more information, visit www.fishermensenergy.com.

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LCMR BOE looks at draft funding change resolution

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

ERMA - Gary Gilbert, who represents the city of Cape May on the Lower Cape May Regional Board of Education, gave fellow board members a draft resolution with the intention of changing the regional school funding formula.

Gilbert handed out the resolution at the Dec. 20 Board of Education meeting in order to spark discussion among

members. Cape May Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman has spearheaded an effort to alter the current funding formula and relieve city taxpayers of bearing much of the cost. Cape May is currently spending \$80,000 per pupil sent to the district, nearly double what was spent six years ago. Lower Township, which has the majority of the students attending the district, pays around \$11,000 per student.

Richard Hooymann, President of the Board of Education, said because the board had received the draft resolution and information just prior to the meeting, they should have a chance to look over and digest the draft resolution. Board member

Gary Douglass said members would review the material and discuss it at the Jan. 24 meeting.

The ultimate goal is to initiate a voter referendum among the board and possibly the municipalities with students attending the district in the November election. Hooymann said if a special election were held, the district would bear the cost. The municipalities with pupils attending the Lower Cape May Regional District are Cape May City, West Cape May and Lower Township. Cape May Point does not belong to the regional school district.

Wichterman said there are certain steps the city must take before challenging the funding formula in court. He said the voter referendum is the first step. He said given the number of Lower Township board members who do not want to pay more per student, the current funding formula will certainly stand following the referendum.

"Common sense dictates the fact they are going to go down in defeat because the seven members of the school board who reside in Lower Township are obviously not going to want to conduct a referendum to change the funding formula," Wichterman said at a recent city council meeting.

Cape May City recently hired Vito Gagliardi, an attorney with the Porzio, Bromberg and Newman law firm which is experienced in changing regional school funding formulas. Gagliardi is to develop a feasibility study providing methods Cape May can use to lower the cost per student sent to the Lower Cape May Regional District.

At the Dec. 20 Board of Education meeting, Hooymann made it clear that he, as a "Lower constituent," was not in favor of the change. During

Please see BOE, page A3

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11:30, 3:10, 7:20

**DJANGO UNCHAINED R 12:05, 3:30, 7:30
LINCOLN PG-13 11:45, 3:00, 7:40
**JACK REACHER PG-13 11:55, 2:50, 7:10, 9:55
**THIS IS 40 R 12:10, 3:20, 7:00, 9:50
**MONSTERS INC 3D G 11:50, 2:20, 4:40, 6:50
(9-10 FRI thru WED)
**TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE R 10:00
PREMIER - THURSDAY, JAN 3rd
**No Passes

Cape May Star & Wave

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| | High | Low | | |
|----|-------|-------|-------|------|
| | A.M. | P.M. | A.M. | P.M. |
| 26 | 6:26 | 6:48 | 12:44 | |
| 27 | 7:04 | 7:28 | 12:24 | 1:23 |
| 28 | 7:42 | 8:07 | 1:02 | 2:00 |
| 29 | 8:18 | 8:45 | 1:40 | 2:36 |
| 30 | 8:53 | 9:22 | 2:18 | 3:11 |
| 31 | 9:27 | 10:00 | 2:56 | 3:45 |
| 1 | 10:02 | 10:38 | 3:37 | 4:21 |
| 2 | 10:41 | 11:23 | 4:21 | 5:01 |

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