

Cape May Star and Wave

161ST YEAR NO. 45 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2015 75¢



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

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Voters tap Furlin for council in Cape May

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Roger Furlin won a seat on Cape May City Council in the Nov. 3 election, defeating opponent Patricia Gray Hendricks 465-387.

"I'm running because I care deeply about our city and its future," Furlin told the Star and Wave in September.

Furlin stated that above all, he was running because he believed he could unite the city and put an end to the "divisiveness, bickering, lawsuits and counter-lawsuits that have damaged Cape May's image and distracted from problem-solving."

"I don't believe in dividing the city and I won't engage in confrontational politics," he stated.

His campaign motto was "Progress through Unity."

Furlin stated he would approach the city's issues in a calm, rational manner, drawing on his technical background and familiarity with the issues. He said he considered himself a good listener, someone who would take all points of view into consideration before seeking consensus.

Furlin agreed with Hendricks on a number of issues but differed on reinstating former police chief Robert Sheehan, combining Cape Islands' elementary schools and the transparency of the operating budget of Convention Hall.

Furlin stated he would not vote to reinstate Sheehan. He said he did not know what litigation was outstanding.

"I could not with a clear conscience make a decision without knowing what the facts are and they are not available to the public yet, and I think it is extremely irresponsible to make a decision without knowing what all the facts are," Furlin stated during a candidates night sponsored by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May.

Furlin said he would like to see it happen, noting it has caused the city "an awful lot of grief." Sheehan was demoted from chief to captain in March. Following that, county Prosecutor Robert Taylor placed a monitor in the Police Department to handle all communication between City Manager Bruce MacLeod and Sheehan.

If Furlin were to align with the current three-person voting bloc of Mayor Edward Mahaney, Deputy Mayor Terri Swain and Councilwoman Bea Pessagno, it would have little impact. Only three votes are needed for resolutions and ordinances other than bond ordinances, which require four positive votes.

Sand flow from Wildwood could fix beach slope

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The solution to the city's beach slope, that may be responsible for more than 200 C-spine injuries, is to let sand flow naturally from Wildwood by building a bypass under the Cape May Canal, according to an expert.

Sand flow stops at the canal, creating the need for Cape May to have federal beach replenishment with sand from an offshore dredge.

Stephen Leatherman, known as

"Mr. Beach," said Cape May could still have beach nourishment by creating a flow of sand from the north. Leatherman is a professor and director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at Florida International University (FIU). Prior to joining FIU, Leatherman was a professor and director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at the University of Maryland.

"Why don't they nourish you by bypassing the sand around that inlet?" Leatherman asked.

He said a sand bypass has been operating at Indian River Inlet in

Delaware.

"It works. There's no reason why they can't do that," Leatherman said.

A pump could be installed on the Wildwood side and pipe could be run at the bottom of the Cape May Canal to pass sand through to Cape May, he said.

Leatherman said making cuts in the jetties on both sides of the canal to allow sand to flow would probably not be successful due to a swift current in the canal.

He said coarse sand pumped by an offshore dredge leads directly to

shorebreaks such as Cape May's.

"It's going to give you steep beaches and is going to lead directly to shorebreaks," Leatherman said. "Unless you can get finer sand in there, then it's going to persist."

Leatherman said there is no method to fix the beach slope unless finer-grain sand is introduced. He said moving sand on the beach would not solve the problem, it would be more of a public relations move.

He said Willard Bascom, an ocean

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Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Fall foliage fighting losing battle

The path to winter is paved with thousands of autumn leaves. The trees in Cape May Point's Pavilion Circle Park were not yet at peak fall color on Nov. 4 and a week of warm temperatures was forecast for Cape Island, but colder, windier days ahead will certainly win the battle and leave branches bare.

Lower chooses highest bidder for Roseanne Avenue work

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — In a 3-2 vote that followed party lines Monday, Lower Township Council approved the hiring of engineering firm Hatch Mott MacDonald to design a project to provide for drainage and storm water improvements and road reconstruction on Roseanne Avenue and the Bayshore Estates area.

In a unanimous vote Oct. 19, Township Council approved a \$4.7 million bond ordinance for the project. At that meeting, council agreed to continue to seek proposals for engineering services for the project until the next council meeting.

On Monday, Republicans Tom Conrad, David Perry and Erik Simonsen voted to hire Hatch Mott MacDonald, while independents Mayor Michael Beck and Deputy Mayor Norris Clark cast "no" votes.

Beck complained council received quotes from three engineering firms 30 minutes before the start of the council meeting.

Public Works Superintendent Gary Douglass said hours of inspection of the project provided by the engineering firms would be a reimbursable cost.

"If they're used, you pay for them, if you don't, you don't," he said. "There's

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Panelists see drones as future of employment in county

By PAUL CHAPMAN
Special to the Star and Wave

ERMA — "Jobs, jobs, jobs, that's a big part of the reason we're here today," said one of the panelists at the Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Symposium held Oct. 30 at the Cape May County Airport.

The theme of the conference was being on the edge of a brand new technology and the possible role the airport may have in driving that technology and reaping the economic advantages and jobs that will come from it.

Drones can be anything from very small, almost toy-like plastic helicopters to large, fast and very powerful devices such as those used by the U.S. military and others in the Middle East.

They recently have gotten

a lot of attention in the U.S. because companies such as Amazon, Google and Walmart have been talking about using them for package delivery to homes and businesses. The drones they are talking about using are small but can have very sophisticated electronics for control and navigation.

U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo and Maj. Gen. Mark "Hoot" Gibson were two of the major speakers at the event. LoBiondo is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Aviation. Gibson is the newly appointed senior adviser on UAS Integration at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Gibson is a former fighter pilot, the former commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and former director of Air Force drone activities in Iraq and Afghanistan. His task is to

work with the FAA to develop integration of drone activities with the national aerospace system and air traffic control systems.

LoBiondo described the intense interest in drones from the business community and the huge amounts of private money that will be available for the development of drone applications and the drone industry. He pointed out that the U.S. was once in the lead in developing this technology but is now starting to fall behind. There is danger that other countries will take over and lead the way, LoBiondo said.

A huge part of that problem is that we have a highly developed, very efficient and very safe aerospace system but it is taxed almost to the limit by

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Cape May refines ordinance that would ban use of drones

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council has been investigating introducing an ordinance to ban drones over the city at the suggestion of outgoing councilman Jack Wichterman. City Solicitor Tony Monzo has been working on a draft of an ordinance.

"Safety is the key word," Wichterman said.

City Manager Bruce MacLeod said he researched proposed regulations from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Monzo said it was likely federal regulations

would take precedence over a local ordinance.

MacLeod offered the key items of the FAA's unmanned aircraft regulations:

— Unmanned aircraft must weigh less than 55 lbs.

— Operational Limitations: Visual line-of-sight (VLOS) only; the unmanned aircraft must remain within VLOS of the operator or visual observer.

— At all times the small unmanned aircraft must remain close enough to the operator for the operator to be capable of seeing the aircraft with vi-

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