



## LT manager wants RR marked 'Out of Service'

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Lower Township Manager Mike Voll said he would like the Cape May Seashore Lines railroad tracks between Route 9 and Seashore Road marked "Out of Service."

A State of New Jersey construction project extending Breakwater and Tabernacle Roads in Lower Township has the road crossing the railroad tracks owned by Cape May Seashore Lines. Voll said the construction project is nearing its end. However, Voll spoke to New Jersey Department of Transportation inspectors and was told the operator, Tony Macrie, has not installed flashing lights and gates at the new intersections.

Voll said he emailed NJ Transit Executive Director Jim Weinsteed and asked him to have signs put up saying the railroad is out of service. "The trains are just not operat-

ing," Voll said. "Every school bus has to stop, every truck carrying fuel... township council pushed for years to get these roads improved because of the stacking up of school bus issue."

Voll said the state has changed the road and made improvements, but unless the "Out of Service" signs are installed there will be traffic back-ups at these intersections.

"If there are no signs (buses, trucks, etc.) would be required to stop, look and listen," Voll said.

Voll said the "Out of Service" signs would prevent back-ups and possible rear-end accidents.

Tim Greeley, a spokesman with the NJDOT said in December the engineer for the project said the newly extended roadways could not be open until railroad safely signal arms and signal light devices were installed.

"That work was to be accomplished by Cape May Seashore Lines, Greeley said.



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Above, train cars are stored on a strip of track near the Cape May Public Works facility.



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## 'The Pajama Game' showing at LCMR

Above, the cast of 'The Pajama Game' go through a dance number in the annual spring musical, starting March 15 at Lower Cape May Regional High School. This year's play deals with a labor dispute at the Sleep Tite Pajama Factory, and the attraction that develops between the plant superintendent and a stunning grievance committee member. See more photos on page B2.

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## Convention Hall project going along 'smoothly'

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Window installation and decking around the new Convention Hall is nearly complete while interior work is well underway.

According to City Manager Bruce MacLeod, aspects such as the electric, heating and air conditioning, plumbing and painting are in progress and will come to a close shortly. He said the tile work for the kitchen is ready to begin, while the appliances and equipment should be installed by the end of this month or early April.

The hardwood bamboo flooring will be one of the final touches in completing

the facility.

MacLeod also said the county has started reconstructing three blocks on Beach Avenue from Ocean to Howard Streets. The Asphalt Paving Company was awarded the contract and will be doing both the county and city portions of the street project. New storm sewers and drains will be installed, then road reconstruction will begin. Installing the pipe infrastructure will continue for roughly two weeks.

At the March 6 city council meeting, council approved two change orders for the new facility's construction totaling \$24,298. MacLeod said the first was a service ramp on the west side of the building, which would



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Above, windows were a noticeable change in the new Convention Hall building.

allow food and equipment to be brought into the kitchen. The ramp will cost \$23,289 and the materials used for it will match the wrap-around decking. The second change order item was a mounted, infant changing station for a restroom, which cost \$472.

Council also approved a \$31,259 bid for a portable stage, including a ramp for American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. The stage was purchased from Light Action Productions of New Castle, Del., and is adjustable to three levels - 12, 24 and 36 inches.

A professional services agreement with the firm of Wells Appel was made for landscaping architecture for the hall, costing \$14,875. The

firm will be designing the landscaping along the north side of the facility, consisting of irrigated planting areas and planters. MacLeod noted the project will include of native plants, or plant life befitting to the beachfront.

Deputy Mayor Jack Wichterman said the construction for the new Convention Hall is on time and within the \$10.5 million budget. He said the contractor told him there wouldn't be any problems with the Lower Cape May Regional Prom scheduled to be held there May 12.

"I can't imagine things going any smoother than they're going," Wichterman said of the project.



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Above, left to right, are Fire Chief Jerry Inderwies Jr., Lt. Michael Eck, Firefighters/EMTs Timothy Gay, William Szemcsak, David Jackson and Alex Toler.

## Four new firefighters, one lieutenant added

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY - Families and friends gathered at the regular council meeting last Tuesday in support of five fulltime firefighters who were sworn in to protect the city.

Mayor Ed Mahaney said four of the five men worked on

a part-time basis with the fire department for many years and will now use their training full-time. Firefighters/EMTs Timothy Gay, William Szemcsak, David Jackson and Alex Toler, accompanied by family members, took their oaths from Deputy Clerk Louise Cummsiskey.

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## Medic Unit station sought in Lower Township

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP - Township Manager Mike Voll said he has spoken to AtlantiCare about establishing a station for paramedics in Lower Township.

Voll issued a press release last week saying Lower Township is the largest community in Cape May County - 32 square miles with a population of 23,000 - and the highest number of senior citizens. Voll said the closest paramedic stations are in Cape May Court House and North Wildwood, and he believes the Lower Township numbers make a case for having a station here.

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## Point tax rate to drop three-tenths of a cent

Borough budget increases by just \$325 over 2011

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT - The Board of Commissioners passed the 2012 Municipal Budget, March 8, which included a three-tenths of a cent decrease in the tax rate - but the vote was not unanimous.

Commissioner John Henderson voted against the budget partially based on the tax rate decrease because it was funded in part by the borough's surplus.

Cape May Point has budgeted \$95,000 from the surplus to be applied to the 2012 budget, up from \$75,000 in 2011. At the same time, the total surplus, referred to as fund balance, increased from \$346,974 in 2011 to \$423,783 in 2012.

Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk, the borough's Commissioner of Revenue and Finance, was pleased to report the increase in the borough's surplus and tax rate decrease.

"I think good management," she said, laughing. "I think



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Above, Municipal Auditor Glen Ortman of Ford, Scott, Kennedy (standing, right in photo) gave a presentation on the 2012 municipal budget, March 8. Shown left to right are Municipal Clerk/Administrator Connie Mahon, Solicitor Brock Russell, Commissioner Anita vanHeeswyk, Mayor Carl Schupp and Commissioner John Henderson (behind Ortman)

we've been careful. Salaries have been reined in for the most part in all departments."

The total amount for Salaries and Wages decreased in the 2012 budget by \$4,042, or about eight-tenths of a percent.

The 2012 budget increased by \$325 (.02-percent) from 2011, and is about \$50,000 below the state imposed 2 per-

cent levy cap. VanHeeswyk said the commissioners have always been careful, but they also have not made a lot of purchases in the 2012 budget.

"Not has as we had in the past," she said. The borough reduced the capital portion of the budget by nearly 12 percent for

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