

Cape May Star and Wave



158TH YEAR NO. 15 CAPE MAY, N.J. SERVING AMERICA'S NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK CITY WEDNESDAY, April 11, 2012 50¢

Clark, Neville join Beck to form independent slate in LT

By CHRISTOPHER SOUTH
Cape May Star and Wave

LOWER TOWNSHIP – Mayor Mike Beck announced he would run for reelection in November, saying he made the decision after forming the slate he now has to run with.

Norris Clark, who once ran for the state Assembly, has joined the independent team as candidate for deputy mayor. Jim Neville, who works for the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority, has signed on to run as an independent candidate for the Ward 2 Councilman seat.

Beck said he had asked Clark to run with him four years ago, but he wasn't

inclined to run at that time.

Clark most recently has been involved with the Friends of the Fishing Creek School, the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities, and Historic Cold Spring Village. He and his wife Athena operate Bayshore Communications LLC providing sales and marketing for businesses such as Morey's Piers, Cape Resorts Group, Sea Tow, and organizations like Cape May Forum. Clark has taught government at Atlantic Cape Community College, and previously served on the board of directors of United We Stand America, a reform-minded citizen action committee led by Ross Perot. In 2007, Clark



Special to the Cape May Star and Wave

Above, Lower Township Mayor Mike Beck, left, will be joined by Norris Clark, center, and Jim Neville, right, as part of an independent team for council. Clark is running for Deputy Mayor and Neville for Ward 2 Councilman.

made an unsuccessful run for the New Jersey Assembly

with Mike Donohue, who is now the Cape May County

Republican chairman, and whose camp Clark now opposes.

Neville was raised in the Town Bank section of Lower Township, and graduated Wildwood Catholic High School. He became an Eagle Scout, and later earned a BS in Chemistry from St. Joseph's University. Neville was hired by the Cape May County Health Department in 1983, was promoted to Environmental Specialist in 1985, and in 1990 he went to work for the Cape May County Municipal Utilities Authority. Neville is married to Patty, an art teacher at Lower Cape May Regional High School, and they have two sons, Graham and Eli.

Neville has been a coach and umpire for Lower Township Little League, coached CYO basketball, and served as Cubmaster for Pack 85 in Cape May. He is also on the advisory council for the Cape May County Technical High School.

Beck has been known for his two terms on Lower Township Council and his term as mayor. He is a retired Philadelphia Police Department Lieutenant, and taught for 14 years at St. Raymond's and Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Despite their varied backgrounds, Beck said they all share something in common.

Please see **Slate**, page A2



Cain Chamberlin/Cape May Star and Wave

Above, crewmembers from a medium-sized response boat before a recent exercise. Left to right are BM2 Paul Kaiser, BM2 Nate Chatwin, BM2 Courtney Eastman, Lt. Scott Murphy, and BM3 Ed Kozlowski.

U.S. Coast Guard takes Star and Wave on practice rescue mission

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – The U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May invited the Star and Wave on a training mission last week to give a glimpse into the average day of a Coast Guardsman.

A five-man crew, led by Lt. Scott Murphy, climbed aboard the Training Center's newest addition to its fleet, the Response Boat-Medium (RB-M) multi-mission

watercraft. The 45-foot all-aluminum vessel is powered with twin 850-horsepower diesel engines and water jet propulsion, which comes in handy when docking.

The water jet propulsion allows the patrol boat to move right to left without ever changing the direction of the bow using a simple joystick steering system. With the water jet propulsion, the boat can turn 360-degree circles without ever leaving its position. Murphy said the

steering system makes taking the reins of the RB-M more like an arcade game rather than driving a boat.

Steering the RB-M was Boatswain's Mate 2 (BM2) Courtney Eastman, one of the first coxswains at Training Center Cape May to become qualified to use the vessel. Eastman explained several features of the RB-M, such as the engine-room mounted camera and video screen

Please see **Rescue**, page A3



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

An Easter crawl in Cape May Point

CAPE MAY POINT – Above, Elsa Shepanski, seven months old, crawls on grass for the first time in her life at the Cape May Point Easter Egg Hunt, April 7. Elsa is the daughter of Julina and Bob Shepanski of West Cape May. See more Easter photos on page A10.

Convention Hall update

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Construction of the new Convention Hall is entering its final month before completion and city council is confident there will be no delays.

At the April 3 regular meeting, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the interior work is well underway, including the installation of acoustic panels in the auditorium. He said cabinets are currently being installed in the lobby and administrative office. MacLeod also noted at the time, 75 percent of the painting was completed.

Ceramic tile in the Solarium area of the building has been completed and doors at the entrances to the main hall will be installed this week.



Christopher South/Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Above, Cape May Convention Hall as of Monday. The official opening is Memorial Day Weekend.

He said restrooms are nearly finished with the toilets, sinks, light fixtures, paint and tiling in place.

He said the bamboo wood flooring would be one of the

Please see **Hall**, page A2

Grants boost capital spending in CM

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY – Since city council approved the 2012 budget, Cape May City Manager Bruce MacLeod has organized a report of proposed capital purchases using grant and capital budget funding.

At the April 3 regular meeting, City Manager Bruce MacLeod said the city's annual bond ordinance would be introduced at the April 17 regular meeting. He said Cape May's annual capital bond ordinance is normally around \$1.5 million. This year, the city is seeking to use \$2,080,000, which is offset by two grants, neither of which require a down payment from the city.

Cape May is still required to make a 5 percent payment of \$75,000 into the Capital Improvement Fund, the same as it would be for the usual

\$1.5 million bond ordinance.

The first grant came from the state Department of Transportation (NJDOT), which MacLeod said was a lucky break for the city. MacLeod said just when Cape May thought there would be a shortfall in funding for the 2012 Road Program, it was recently awarded a \$180,000 State Road Aid grant from the NJDOT.

MacLeod said the grant, coupled with the appropriation of \$750,000 from a 2012 bond ordinance and the remaining balance from 2011 will allow the city to fund improvements on both Cape May Avenue and Washington Street.

The other grant is from the state Small Cities grant program in the amount of \$400,000. The funding will be used to continue Phase 4 of the Carpenter's Lane project dealing with American Disabilities Act (ADA)

improvements.

MacLeod said the city's 2012 Road Program will have a budget of \$750,000 plus the \$180,000 NJDOT grant. He said \$100,000 was being put aside for Lyle Lane and Rotary Park improvements. The Streets and Roads section of the Public Works Department will also use \$35,000 for a new utility truck and \$50,000 for a stake body truck. MacLeod said there was also leftover 2011 funding for a lift machine and various small equipment.

The 85-year-old City Hall will also see improvements using 2012 funding. City Engineer Ray Roberts said the building needed a new roof, which will cost \$130,000. Roberts said design work to replace the windows was in progress. MacLeod said \$100,000 in the capital improvement budget has

Please see **Roads**, page A2

Grants to help extend bike lanes in WCM

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN
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CAPE MAY – Mayor Pam Kaithern was happy to announce the borough finally received the \$180,000 grant from the New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) to construct more bike paths through West Cape May.

"Third time's a charm," Kaithern said, as this marked the third time the borough had applied for the municipal aid. "We're thrilled to finally

get it."

The bike path extensions are part of a four-phase project, the first of which was completed back in January 2009, when a bike path was added to a section of Park Boulevard, starting at West Perry Street.

In September 2011, Borough Engineer Ray Roberts said surveying was done on multiple borough streets and those studies concluded that bicyclists were traveling down Park Boulevard, Central Avenue and Leaming Avenue

almost non-stop during the summer months. With the new grant from the NJDOT, the borough can now continue on to the next three phases of the project.

Phase 2 will be the extension of the Park Boulevard bicycle lane out to Central Avenue. Phases 3 and 4 will be future projects, adding bike lanes to Central Avenue from Park to Broadway (Phase 3) and a lane on Leaming Avenue leading to Cape May

Please see **Bike**, page A2

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