

# Slate

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"We were all (Republican) committee people at one time, and we all came to the realization that the answer is not within the political party, but within decent people who really care about the town," Beck said.

Beck said the most important thing to people in the township is their pocket-books. He said he was glad to be part of a city council that has held the line on property taxes, this year approving a budget with no tax increase. But he said this year's election is about choice. "Come November, people have a choice. There will be no fighting after November - the contention will be history," Beck said. "There will either be a victory by candidates with control of the system or the harmony of independent people in government whose goal is doing what is best for Lower Township, not advancing doing what is best for a political system."

Beck ran for mayor in 2009 as an independent, with the slogan, "Not political parties,

but dedicated people." He said it didn't end up that way. Instead, he said there was a "stream of political pollution" that came through Township Hall, including backroom deals and a job to the county Republican chairman.

Beck said despite the situation he described with sometimes public contention, he said the council has worked to control spending.

"People have to be convinced we won't spend money unwisely, people have to know where we stand and what we are doing," Beck said.

He said the independent team stands behind several big ticket items, including the Public Safety Building, the Coastal Heritage Byway, and the Revolving Loan Program for Economic Development.

"I went to Colleen (Crippen, grants coordinator) about the Revolving Loan Program and said we have to do something about it," Beck said.

The program has about \$150,000 from a state grant program, of which up to \$130,000 can be loaned to independent township businesses for capital improve-

ments. The program had not been used for seven years when the Erma Deli used funds for remodeling and expanding their business. The Cape May Brewing Company was recently approved for a \$68,000 loan from the fund.

Clark has been working, along with Anne Salvatore and John Louderback on the Heritage Byway, which is aimed at bringing people into Lower Township to promote the culture and history of the township.

"Tourism is important to this town. Not to ignore the airport, but we need to the use concept of the Byway to create an identity for the town. We're undiscovered. When people think of this side of Route 9, people think we don't exist," Beck said.

Beck said the township needs to create a revenue stream of OPM - other people's money - which is tourism, including eco-tourism and military tourism. Some of the most historic military sites in the county are in Lower Township.

"Tourism will create jobs. There is not one answer to

this (economic development) problem, the airport is one answer, but we are not going to wait for that to happen," Beck said.

Neville, for one, is interested in the proposed municipal fishing pier in Lower Township. He said he has taken scouts fishing in Lower Township and Cape May, and he believes a fishing pier would be a safer way for people of all ages to fish.

Neville said he had previously been approached about running for political office in Lower Township, but the timing wasn't right for him. He said he had commitments to coaching and Cub Scouts in addition to spending time with his children.

"Once that time is gone you can't get it back," he said.

Neville said it was his sons who really encouraged him to run for council. He said he was also inspired to run because he believes the political party wasn't working for the people of Lower Township. He cited as an example the appointment of Tom Frisoli to the LTMUA board. Neville said other more qualified candi-

dates were ignored.

"I'm running for the same reason Mike ran in Ward 1 without committee support - because the system is flawed."

Clark echoed those remarks. "If you look at other side, they are busy squabbling over jobs, shutting down city government until they can get the situation right to protect their solicitor," he said. "Their motto is ask not what you can do for the township, but ask what the township can do for you. The mayor is saying ask what you can do for your township."

Clark said one reason he is supporting Beck is because he has shown the ability to motivate people and sees opportunities other people miss. He cited the example of the Fishing Creek School, which he called an old, broken up, one-room school house.

"Now it's a showplace, it became a symbol of the new-found pride that the mayor was bringing to the table," Clark said.

Beck said it was he who jumped on the issue of the Heritage Byway, which had

been originally designed to circumvent Lower Township.

"The council basically rubber-stamped a proposal to bring the byway down 47. That's a disgrace. One of the things about being on council is you have to defend the town," Beck said.

Beck said despite disagreements on council they have been able to hold the line on taxes by cutting the workforce through attrition, and using the governor's tool kit. He said all of those things come out of an honest effort to try to help the township.

He said he also believes people get on board with you when you have a plan.

"I have a lot of plans and two good people who, without them I am not running, with them the sky is the limit. We will come with a whole gamut of ideas and will follow through," Beck said.

Beck said the independents have an uphill battle against an organized political system. He said they don't have campaign money, and so will be spending a lot of time knocking on doors and spreading their message face to face.

# Hall

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final interior aspects to be completed. He said installation would occur sometime after this week when all of the other aspects of the auditorium are done, to prevent damaging the floor with equipment and machinery. Ceiling tile work is in its final stages.

MacLeod said within the next week, the heating and air conditioning system would be turned on and tested. The fiber optic service for the telecommunications, security and audio-visual systems to the building has been deliv-

ered by Comcast and will be installed over the next couple weeks.

MacLeod expects the kitchen equipment, chair riser system for the auditorium and various furniture to be delivered by early May. He said the solar panels on the roof should also be installed by that point.

Mayor Ed Mahaney noted that power to the hall was turned on Tuesday, April 3.

On the exterior of the facility, window glazing needs to be completed along with decorative window pieces. MacLeod said the exterior

insulation-finish system is almost complete and roof panels are in place.

The wooden decking surrounding two sides and the rear of the hall is complete with the exception of the railings.

Work on the Promenade continues while most of the concrete needed for the ramp at the front of the facility has been poured along with the walkway across the front of the building. He said restoration of the seawall, which was breached to allow large machinery and materials through, was to be completed by this week. MacLeod said he expects all work along the Promenade to be finished by the third week in April.

# Bike

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(Phase 4). Leaming was added to the project after a survey done in summer 2011.

At the Sept. 14, 2011 regular meeting, Kaithern asked Borough Engineer Ray Roberts if West Cape May would need as much state aid for the Central Avenue portion of the project, since the borough was approved for a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant and a loan for sanitary sewer extension

and water main replacement projects. West Cape May received a \$2,305,000 loan and a \$708,000 grant from the USDA to improve water and sewer systems and Central Avenue was included in the project.

Kaithern said she hoped they could finish both projects on that street with most of the funding coming from one grant. Roberts said since the street will need to be repaved after the sewer work was done, Central

Avenue could simply be widened in the process to make room for the bicycle lane. Roberts asked the USDA and the state Department of Transportation (NJDOT) if that would be possible, but has not received word yet as to whether it could be done.

Roberts' firm, Remington, Vernick and Walberg Engineers is handling both the bicycle path projects and the USDA sewer and water main projects.

# Roads

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been earmarked for improvements to City Hall.

"We've coupled over the last three or four years similar amounts that give us a pool of funding of about \$600,000 for improvements to the building," MacLeod said.

MacLeod said \$750,000 has been earmarked in the Water/Sewer Utility budget for road projects. He said the full amount might not be used since the only road repair project that includes utility repair/replacement is on Washington Street in front of City Hall.

Another \$200,000 is being used to replace cylinder membranes at the city's

desalination plant. He said \$140,000 was put aside in past budgets for the time when the membranes would need to be replaced.

Mayor Ed Mahaney noted that the first desalination unit went on line in June 1998 and the second unit was operational in September 1998, both handling around 1 million gallons of water per day. He said the life expectancy of the membranes was around six years, but by cleaning and maintaining them throughout the year, Cape May was able to extend the membrane use to 14 years.

MacLeod said another \$200,000 was set aside in the Water/Sewer Utility budget for a generator that will pro-

vide power to Wells 5 and 7 during an outage. A small housing unit for the generator is also included in the \$200,000.

The total earmarked amount for the Water/Sewer Utility budget in capital expenses is \$1,263,000.

Other proposed purchases include a beach tractor and rake for \$130,000, a new ambulance for \$165,000 plus \$10,000 from the 2011 left-over funding and an emergency generator for the school (emergency shelter) for \$30,000. MacLeod said \$45,000 was also being earmarked for improvements along the seawall at Wilmington Avenue.

# WCM firehouse getting energy efficiency makeover

By CAIN CHAMBERLIN Cape May Star and Wave

WEST CAPE MAY - Deputy Mayor Peter Burke said after obtaining more grant money

through the state the borough will not have to pay as much as expected for an energy efficiency makeover of the West Cape May Volunteer Fire Company.

West Cape May applied for the funding in 2010, but the money wasn't received until this year. The New Jersey Clean Energy Direct Install program is designed to cut a facility's energy costs by replacing lighting, HVAC and other outdated operational equipment with energy efficiency alternatives. The program pays up to 70 percent of retrofit costs with a \$75,000 incentive cap on each project.

Burke said the borough expected to pay 30 percent of the cost in 2012, however, the state contacted West Cape May and explained there was additional money found from the 2011 program. The program is now providing, through what had been available in 2011, matching funds from the federal government, which will cover almost the entire portion the borough was supposed to pay.

Burke said West Cape May will only need to pay around \$8,000 for the approximately \$108,000 project.

"We were not one of the

Please see Fire, page A3



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LOCKOUT 2D PG-13 12:20, 2:40, 5:05, 7:35, 9:55  
AMERICAN REUNION 2D R 11:55, 2:25, 5:00, 7:30, 10:05  
HUNGER GAMES 2D PG-13 12:40, 3:50, 7:00, 10:00  
TITANIC 3D PG-13 12:00, 4:00, 8:00  
21 JUMP STREET 2D R 12:05, 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50  
MIRROR MIRROR 2D PG 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:15  
WRATH OF THE TITANS 2D PG-13 9:40



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**TIDES APRIL 2012 Eastern Standard Time**

	High	Low		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
11	12:02	12:34	6:20	6:26
12	1:03	1:41	7:22	7:31
13	2:09	2:52	8:27	8:40
14	3:17	4:01	9:30	9:48
15	4:22	5:03	10:30	10:51
16	5:20	5:55	11:22	11:47
17	6:11	6:41	12:08	
18	6:56	7:21	12:37	12:50

Moon Phases  
Full Moon, April 6  
Last Quarter, April 13  
New Moon, April 21  
First Quarter, April 29  
Perigee, April 7