



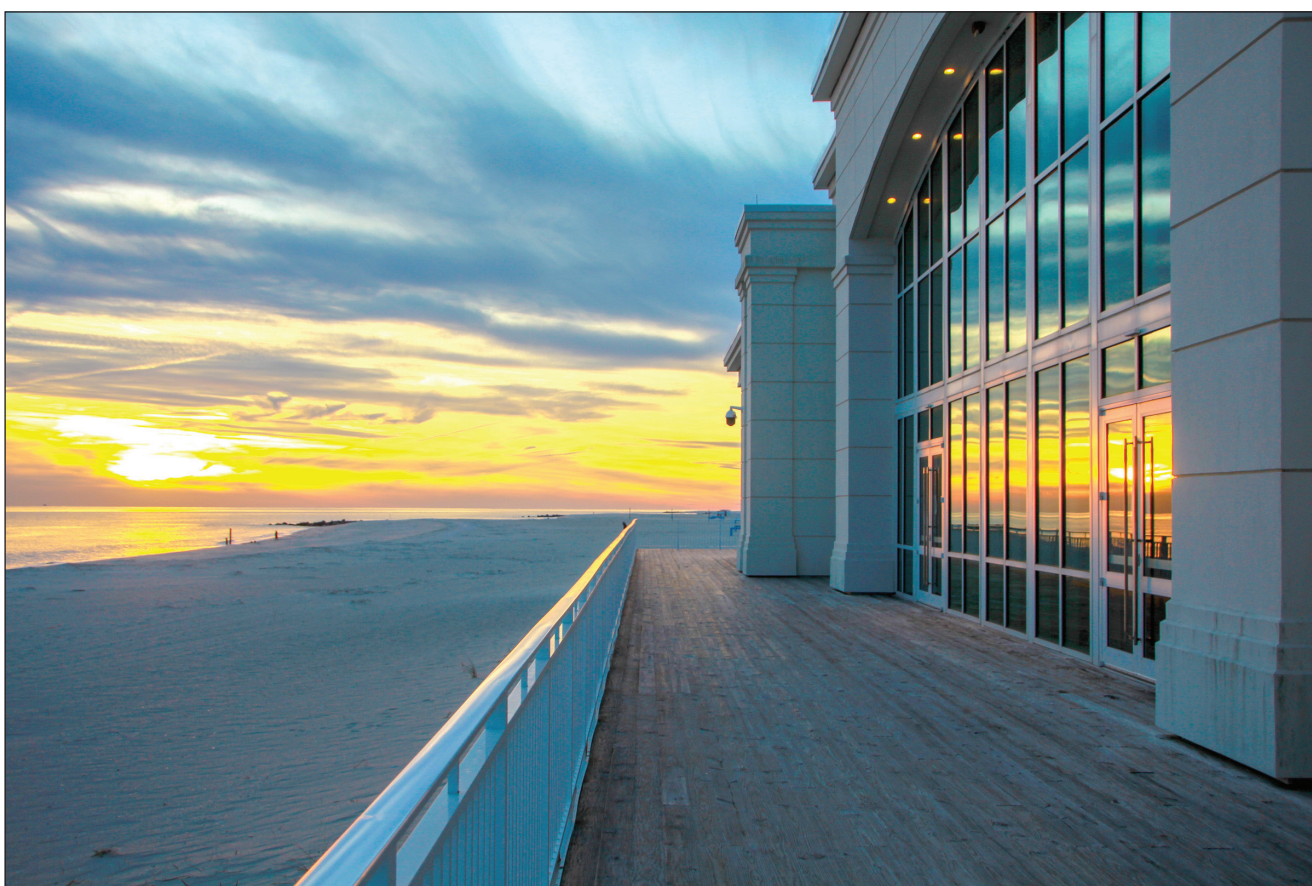
## House of the week

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## Project SNOWstorm in West Cape

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John Cooke/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

## Sunrise sunset

January sunrises and sunsets, as seen here behind Cape May Convention Hall, provide for some of the most dramatic and colorful skies. In winter, Cape May is one of the few places one can witness sunrise and sunset from the same place on the beach.

## State expert explains HPC options

Cape May Point population allows Planning Board to serve in role

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY POINT — Should the borough wish to form a historic preservation commission (HPC), due to the borough's small population, the Planning Board may serve in that capacity.

Jonathan Kinney, a senior preservation specialist with the state Historic Preservation Office, spoke to the Planning Board and public at Jan. 15 meeting. He said he was also the certified local government coordinator for the state working with communities, HPCs, governing bodies and planning boards to help them develop and strengthen existing historic preservation programs at

the local level.

Since the borough has fewer than 2,500 residents, the Municipal Land Use Law (MLUL) allows the Planning Board to function as an HPC, he said.

Kinney said that was not typical of the average municipality in the state.

"Although listing on the state and national registers provides historic properties with a layer of protection against public undertakings, they do not provide a review if a private property owner or developer or new owner intends to insensitively alter or demolish an historic property," Kinney said. "The truth is most of the legal power to protect historic properties rests chiefly with the local government in New Jersey



Jack Fichter  
STAR AND WAVE

Jonathan Kinney, senior preservation specialist with the state Historic Preservation Office.

through what is known as the local designation and review of local landmarks

or historic districts."

In New Jersey, local preservation is made possible by the MLUL, which governs all planning and zoning in the state. Kinney said the MLUL allows a municipality to include a historic preservation element in its master plan, allows a municipality to adopt a historic preservation ordinance to designate properties as historic sites or districts and to create an HPC.

He said a local governing body will designate historic sites and districts through zoning ordinances. Kinney said designation at the local level is called a zoning overlay, so all of the existing zoning on a property

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## Safety building panel seeking council action

Complains lack of consensus could delay project for year

By JACK FICHTER  
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — By January 2020, it was expected the city would be breaking ground for a new public safety building. But at this time, with no promise of four City Council votes to bond the project, it could be another year away following a possible voter referendum.

During a Public Safety Advisory Committee meeting Jan. 14, Fire Chief Alex Coulter asked about the status of USA Architects for the project.

"They are waiting for us," Vice Chairwoman Rose Traficante said.

She said at worst, City Council is "toxic." At best, council is just having a hard time with consensus, she said.

"We cannot allow that imbalance to destruct our work," Traficante said.

The committee made an extensive presentation to City Council on Oct. 1. At that time, Councilwoman Stacy Sheehan said she would not vote for a combined building but wanted two separate buildings for the police and fire departments in two different locations.

Coulter noted the committee keeps giving council the same information but council does not act on it. He said misinformation was being posted online in another county newspaper.

"We have a governing body that can't govern, they either won't or can't," Traficante said.

She said the committee visited Victorian Towers, involved the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May and the Historic Preservation Commission. Trafic

"We cannot allow that imbalance to destruct our work. We have a governing body that can't govern, they either won't or can't."

—Rose Traficante, vice chair, Public Safety Building Advisory Committee

cante said Victorian Towers residents asked what was holding up the project.

"We can't get the fourth vote," Traficante said.

The next work of the committee is meeting with community groups so that in the event of a referendum, the public understands the issue, she said.

Police Chief Tony Marino said holding a referendum would mean the project would probably not begin for another year, which would keep the fire department in its leaky building.

Coulter suggested council members be polled for their reasoning on their votes.

"There is no reasoning," Traficante said. "Why would you approach irrationality with rationality?"

Committee member Jim Matthews, who is president of the fire company, said the city has been unable to stop water intrusion in the firehouse.

"They are in the second phase of tearing out sheet rock and mold remediation and it's going to continue because they haven't addressed the roof yet," he said.

Shortly after Sheehan and Councilman Zach Mullock

Safety building, Page A10

## Van Drew steadily lining up support for re-election bid

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

After U.S. Rep. Jeff Van Drew announced in December that he would switch parties from Democrat to Republican, response in Republican circles has been varied, ranging from skepticism to emphatically embracing his decision.

Although it's been only a month since Van Drew appeared in the White House and pledged his "undying support" for President

Donald Trump, Republican leadership in the 2nd Congressional District has announced their endorsements for Van Drew's re-election in November.

The 2nd Congressional District encompasses Cape May, Cumberland and Salem counties, most of Atlantic County and parts of Gloucester, Camden, Burlington and Ocean counties.

Van Drew will appear



VAN DREW

with Trump at a "Keep American Great" rally Jan. 28 in Wildwood.

Cape May County's Republican leadership expressed their support for Van Drew, noting the close relationship Van Drew has with the president.

"We now have an incumbent Republican congressman, endorsed by our Re-

See Van Drew, Page A9

## Simonsen takes seat in Assembly

By ERIC AVEDESIAN  
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Former Lower Township Mayor Erik Simonsen said his swearing-in ceremony Jan. 14 in Trenton "went above and beyond what I expected."

Simonsen and running mate Antwan McClellan gathered with their families at Patriots Theater and took their respective oaths of office for the General Assembly after winning seats in the Assembly in November.



SIMONSEN

Both will represent the First Legislative District, which consists of Cape May County; Commercial Township, Downe Township, Fairfield Township, Greenwich Township, Hopewell Township, Lawrence Township, Millville, Maurice River Township, Shiloh Borough, Stow Creek Township and Vineland in Cumberland County; and Corbin City, Estell Manor and Weymouth Township in Atlantic County.

"They brought a bunch of our supporters in, which

was really cool. We had to go into the State of the State address by the governor. All of the senators and Assembly people had to be present for the State of the State. My family got to come into the caucus room and they had a little reception," Simonsen said.

Gov. Phil Murphy pitched a new millionaire's tax, raising marginal income tax for those with incomes exceeding \$1 million as a way of growing the middle class.

Simonsen said there "was nothing new" with Murphy's proposals.

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