



Cross country teams enjoy successful seasons

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CAPE MAY CITY COUNCIL RACE

Seven candidates speak of priorities, positions

Address expansion of desalination plant, tourism, hazard mitigation, transparency

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — With the majority of City Council up for election, seven candidates vying for four council seats participated in a candidate's night Oct. 17.

Sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May and moderated by the Atlantic County League of Women Voters, the event was held at the Grand Hotel, which was less than half-full.

Participants were incumbents Shaine Meier, Mike Yeager and Lorraine Baldwin, former mayor Chuck Lear, former councilwoman Patricia Hendricks, newcomer Maureen McDade and Mark DiSanto, who ran unsuccessfully in two previous elections.

Baldwin had contracted COVID and participated from her home. She could be seen on a large video screen on the dais.

Candidates answered questions submitted by the public prior to the event.

Opening remarks

In her opening statement, Hendricks said the voters of Cape May deserved to have an experienced candidate for council. She said she served on council for four years, including two years as deputy mayor.

Hendricks said she served on the Planning Board for four years. She said during her term, the city's surplus account increased by 190 percent and

the dependency on spending the surplus decreased by 80 percent because spending was controlled.

"I served as council liaison to seven advisory committees. I knew and I understood their objectives," Hendricks said.

Lear said in his opening statement he was proud of his 37-year career with the Cape May Police Department.

He said citizen advisory committees and council accomplished a number of important missions during his time in office, including updating the city's master plan, increasing citizen involvement in critical issues, holding town hall meetings, preserving the historic Franklin Street School, initiating a free jitney service, implementing commercial beach tags and navigating the COVID crisis to keep businesses open.

In his opening statement, Meier said he is currently the youngest person on council but the most experienced of all the candidates, having served nearly eight years on council.

"What it takes to be on City Council is a person that's willing to compromise or to work as a team," he said.

One of council's biggest goals is the expansion of the city's desalination water facility, Meier said. He said Cape May needed to continue its sustainability and preserve its history.

DiSanto said in his opening statement that he was a professional sports fisher-

man and yacht transporter. He said he is running for council because Cape May needed a new focus and a new opportunity, the construction of a city-owned marina on Delaware Avenue.

DiSanto said he organized the Cape May Marina Resort Committee with Mayor Zack Mullock.

In her opening statement, Baldwin said when she was first appointed, council quickly went to work to build a new firehouse.

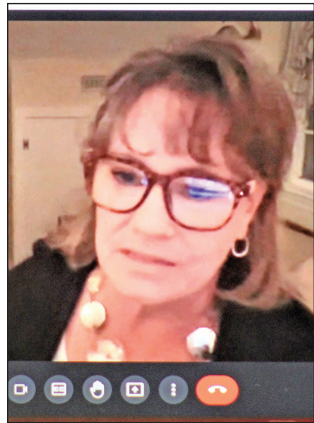
She said council has secured funding for a new police station in addition to getting new pumps for nonfunctioning wells at the water plant.

"These three projects had been things that previous administrations could not get off the ground and was discussed for years without resolution or direction," Baldwin said.

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McDADE



BALDWIN



HENDRICKS



MEIER



DiSANTO



LEAR



YEAGER



Jerry Myers/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Leviathan breacheth

A humpback whale was spotted lunge-feeding Oct. 18 a few miles off Cape May Point from aboard the Cape May Whale Watcher.

Farrell gives city beaches good grades after survey

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Stewart Farrell, director and founder of Stockton University's Coastal Research Center, has been working on three projects for the past year and a half that study street flooding and the condition of Cape May's beaches.

Last spring, the research center started a survey of beaches at 10 sites and are now finishing the fall survey.

A joint effort with Cape May Point, West Cape May and Cape May for a watershed management plan, which has Community Rating System implications, was completed at the start of summer, according to Farrell, who addressed City Council on Oct. 18.

"We are in the process of organizing a triad of the three communities plus

the Nature Conservancy to come up with a flood mitigation plan, which involves the Nature Conservancy because they own the property into which most of the stormwater discharges from the three towns," he said.

Farrell said a nuisance flooding study was completed in May. He said nuisance flooding is another name for minor flooding that occurs when there is a combination of easterly winds, spring tides and rainfall.

"The easterly winds push the water and hold it into the lagoons and bays, the spring tides are a foot and a half to a foot and three quarters higher than the normal high tide just because of the astronomical alignment of the sun, Earth and moon, and finally heavy rainfall has to go somewhere and since most of the landscape is

relatively flat, it has to drain into the bayshore or into the ocean directly," he said.

Six sensors were set up in storm drain vaults on the north and south sides of Elmira Street, near Cape Island Creek, as well as at Perry, Congress and Grant streets, where a 48-inch pipe extends from the Nature Conservancy wetlands to Cape Island Creek.

Readings were taken every four minutes. Farrell said all six sensors showed water in the street Jan. 11 and 12, 27 and 29 and March 12. He said the sensors record the depth of the water and how long it remains in the street.

On one January day, Elmira Street had a foot and a half of water while Congress Street had only six-tenths of an inch, Far-

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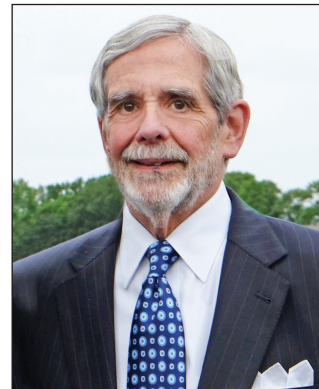
Celebrating life of Renaissance man Clemans to be honored Saturday at yacht club

By R.E. HEINLY
Special to the Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — David Clemans was a Renaissance man. He also was one of a group of individuals, all highly talented and accomplished, who came to Cape May in the 1970s and 1980s to form a critical mass of successful and civic-minded individuals who drove Cape May's Victorian Renaissance and in doing so created the uniquely attractive and thriving town we enjoy today.

Clemans and his beloved wife, Christina, formed a marvelous team and Cape Mayans were the beneficiaries of their talents and equally important attitudes about civic responsibility and what true success in life means.

Already an accomplished artist and art gallery owner,



DAVID CLEMANS

Clemans moved to Cape May in the early 1980s and immediately immersed himself in the betterment of the community in a variety of ways.

His art and writing remained popular. He ran one of the most noted restaurants, Cucina Rosa, in a town noted for fine dining. Meanwhile, his wife became one

of Cape May's leading real estate agents. Together they restored one of the city's leading bed and breakfast inns, the John Craig House on Columbia Avenue, when such accommodations were a key part of the city's tourism revival.

Clemans also passionately believed in giving back to the community. Ever philanthropic he and his wife played key roles in the success of the Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts and Humanities (now Cape May MAC), Cape May Stage, the Exit Zero Jazz Festival, the Cape May Historical Preservation Commission and more recently the Harriet Tubman Museum and Cape May Science Center.

Clemans was passionate about historic preservation. In addition to their work

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