



Caper Tiger wrestler signs with Rider

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House of the week

B1



168th YEAR NO. 46 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022 \$1.00

City voters choose Mullock-backed candidates

Baldwin, Yeager, McDade win with mayor's endorsement, Meier without

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Candidates endorsed by Mayor Zack Mullock won council seats Nov. 8 with the exception of incumbent Shaine Meier, who won without his endorsement.

Chuck Lear and Patricia Hendricks were unsuccessful in returning to council.

Four of five council seats were up for election Nov. 8. Elected to council were Lorraine Baldwin with 778 votes, Mike Yeager with 709 votes, Maureen McDade with 657 votes and Shaine Meier with 612 votes.

The only change to the makeup of council in January will be the addition of McDade. Deputy Mayor Stacy Sheehan did not seek re-election.

Mullock endorsed Baldwin, Yeager and McDade in print and social media advertising he paid for and in a mailer sent to voters. In the ad, Mullock noted council funded, designed and built a firehouse, hired more firefighters, switched to county dispatch and completed a new labor contract with firefighters.

He stated council has funded a new police station, hired an architect, upgraded public safety radio

communications and completed and signed a new police labor contract.

"It would not have happened without this City Council," Mullock's ad stated.

Lear received 446 votes, Hendricks 322 votes and Mark DiSanto 283 votes.

In his advertising, Lear stated he was an experience, independent and trusted leader who would "never be a rubber-stamp council member."

Hendricks in her ads stated "if questions about our future aren't addressed and answered at the council table, the outcome and our

future will be mediocre at best." She questioned the need for a complete replacement of the city's desalination plant.

In Lower Township, two of three council seats had no challengers with Republicans Tom Conrad re-elected in Ward One and Kevin Coombs re-elected in Ward Two.

In Ward Three, Republican incumbent Roland Roy defeated Democratic challenger Chris "Kit" Marlowe 1,976 votes to 997 votes.

Three members of the Cape May City Elementary School Board of Education were re-elected: Anita DeSatnick with 830 votes, Edward

Connolly with 728 voted and Dawn Austin with 727 votes.

Voters elected three members to the Lower Cape May Regional School District Board of Education: Gary Douglass Sr. with 4,747 votes, Ann Mareta Matagiese with 3,877 votes and Frank Onorato with 3,539 votes.

In the school board election for the Lower Township Elementary School District, voters chose Lauren Randle with 3,172 votes, Lauren Cox with 2,819 and Jonathan Vile with 2,649 votes.

In West Cape May, Shelly Richards and Brian Groetsch were elected to the Board of Education.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Timothy Tamargo/U.S. COAST GUARD

Seven-gun salute at TRACEN honors veterans

Cmdr. Brad Conway, the executive officer of U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, and members of the recruit ceremonial honor guard participate in a Veterans Day ceremony on base at the enlisted memorial Nov. 11.

MTRAC to ask all owners if they plan to rent homes

Board says issue about revenue, fairness

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee (MTRAC) is creating a form to be mailed to every homeowner asking if they rent their home at any time during the year.

The form, which will need to be mailed to the City Clerk's Office, will be accompanied by a letter explaining the rules regarding residential rentals and the new requirement that every homeowner who rents a property provide proof of insurance.

During a meeting Nov. 10, MTRAC member Martin Van Walsum said the committee realized early on that contacting only the people who are applying for mercantile licenses was "not reaching into the right bucket." He noted 62 per-

cent of Cape May's housing stock that is not allocated to full-time residents and full-time renters is unaccounted for by the city.

"We don't know what percentage of the 62 percent are actually renting their houses out for a weekend or an entire summer," Van Walsum said. "That 62 percent that's unaccounted for are not currently getting mercantile licenses, so that's the population we're trying to reach."

If the city collected occupancy tax from 25 percent of the unaccounted-for homes used as rentals, it would amount to \$75,000 in additional mercantile license fees. If 50 percent of the unaccounted homes used for rentals were taxes, it would amount to an additional \$150,000 in mercantile license fees, he said. In

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Task force looks at designs for city's new police station

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Police Station Task Force is studying designs for the interior layout of a new police station.

During a City Council meeting Nov. 1, Councilman Mike Yeager said the Police Station Task Force met two weeks prior. He said a lengthy portion of the meeting included a presentation from the state Department of Corrections.

"They're going to be very involved in inspecting what we do," Yeager said.

Architect Rob Conley presented three floor layout options and two basic exterior design options. He said they worked out building layouts that were satisfactory to everyone on the task force.

"Next meeting, they'll come back with draw-

ings reflecting all the input that we had in that meeting with furnishings and the like included," Yeager said. "We're going to be getting into a little bit more detail."

He said when the task force has renderings for the exterior, the designs can be presented to the city's Historical Preservation Commission for its input.

Mayor Zack Mullock said meetings of the Police Station Task Force are open to the public and meeting dates are posted on the city's website.

The task force consists of Police Chief Dekon Fashaw; retired North Wildwood chief of police Joseph Stevenson; chairman of the Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee Dennis Crowley; police

Task force, Page A2

Lower residents ask for help with unruly juveniles

Holly Estates neighbors detail threats, damages

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

VILLAS — Some residents of Holly Estates, a North Cape May subdivision off Sheriff Taylor Boulevard, approached Lower Township Council on Nov. 7 with complaints about the behavior of juveniles in their neighborhood since last summer.

"They're being abusive," said one resident. "We are a quiet neighborhood and it's just gotten out of hand. Police have been called numerous times. They can't do anything, unfortunately, there's no curfews in effect for the area."

Mayor Frank Sippel said council was aware of the situation. He said he discussed the matter with the chief of police.

Sippel said he and Councilman Roland Roy attended a county roundtable work session on the topic. He said the state passed laws in the past year or two that make

it extremely difficult for police officers to deal with juveniles. He said those at the meeting sought methods to change the state law.

"I think the law was mainly written for urban cities in the state and not so much for where we live in Lower Township," Sippel said.

If a juvenile walks down the street and a police officer asks the juvenile for his or her name, the officer can be charged with a third-degree offense, he said. Sippel said there had been issues with juveniles in the township in the past.

He said Township Manager Mike Laffey would schedule a meeting with residents to meet with the chief of police. Sippel said he would attend the meeting along with a detective overseeing juvenile matters.

A juvenile issue in Villas was solved in a 30-day period, he said.

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Occupancy tax revenue increases by \$1.1 million

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Occupancy tax revenue has increased by \$1.1 million after the city extended the tax to short terms rentals such as Airbnb and VRBO and increase the tax from 2 percent to 3 percent.

Occupancy tax, with two more months to be reported for the year, totals \$2,913,086.

Using 2020 census data, 21 percent of residential units in the city have an owner living on the property, a total of 882 units. A total of 12 percent or 500 residential units have a full-time rental.

The remaining homes are classified by the U.S. Census Bureau as vacant, meaning no one is registered as a resident of the property.

The city's Municipal Taxation and Revenue Advisory Committee predicted in July the city would generate more than \$2 million from the occupancy tax.

Parking meter revenue year to date is \$1,764, 591, down \$40,000 from last year. In September, Neil Young, the city's chief financial officer, said initially high gasoline prices may have stopped some day-trippers from visiting.

Beach tag sales total \$2,818,649, up \$150,000 from 2021.



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