



Let the games begin: LCMR sports start

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House of the week

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166th YEAR NO. 39 CAPE MAY, N.J. Serving America's National Historic Landmark City WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020 \$1.00

CAPE MAY MAYOR

Lear touts major accomplishments during first term

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Making use of residents' talents and helping businesses weather a pandemic have been priorities for Chuck Lear, who is seeking a second term as mayor.

Lear inherited a lot of unfinished business from the previous administration when he was elected in 2016 — settling a lawsuit with former police chief Capt. Robert Sheehan, the possibility of having to rebuild Convention Hall due to elevation issues, a languishing Franklin Street School, steep beach drop-offs the city could not address and state fire inspectors harassing owners of historic properties — and has addressed many of the issues.

The lawsuit was settled, Franklin Street School is being restored and the city now has a beach-management plan approved by the state that allows the city to knock down beach scarps, Lear said, adding that oversight of fire inspections has been returned to the city and is now self-funded.



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The city had been holding town hall meetings at Convention Hall that are on hold due to the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

Other improvements Lear touted include the ParkMobile app that allows drivers to pay for parking meters with a smart phone. Lear credits city purchasing agent Dan Shustack with bringing ParkMobile to the city's attention.

Visitors have been pleased to be able to add time to their parking meters from the beach or a restaurant seat to avoid a ticket, Lear said, adding that ParkMobile kiosks eliminate the visual clutter of a street filled with parking meters.

The county and county library system are partnering with the city to restore the historic Franklin Street School to become a new branch library. Lear said in 2017, the state passed a bond issue for library construction and renovation that may help pay for the project.

"We've applied — the county has a grant writer — we're just waiting for the state to

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Mullock believes he's the man who will finish the job

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Zack Mullock has served two years on City Council and now is seeking the mayor's seat in the Nov. 3 election.

He said he is running in part due to the constant discord on council and his lack of inclusion in the decision-making process.

He said his opponent, Mayor Chuck Lear, holds a weekly meeting that includes the city solicitor, city manager and traditionally one council member.

"Myself and Councilwoman Sheehan have never been invited for one of those meetings, and I think it's that type of system that we have set up is destined for failure; you have to start with an inclusive system that brings people together," he said.

Mullock acknowledged the Sunshine Law prohibits a majority of council members from attending a non-council meeting but called for a rotation of members based on their interests and best talents.

He said while the entire

council does not see eye to eye on everything, it has agreed on 80 percent of items.

"We have to look for the things that we do agree on rather than simply bicker on the things that we don't," Mullock said.

Lear and Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks have touted the citizen advisory committees formed on topics ranging from bike safety to a new public safety building totaling more than 100 people, he said.

"Between Councilwoman Sheehan and myself, we've selected one of those 100," Mullock said.

He said a good leader needs to bring people together and ask for recommendations. Mullock said that calls for a major process change.

He said he feels Cape May's National Historic Landmark status has almost become a "show piece" rather than something the city actually honors. He said that means the city boards and commissions cannot make decisions that would have a negative effect on the

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Benita Battaglia/Special to the STAR AND WAVE

Catching some father-son time

A father shares his knowledge of fishing with his son shortly after sunrise from Cape May's Howard Avenue beach.

Ballot order to stand for Cape May elections

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Cape May County Superior Court Judge James Savio ruled Sept. 23 that County Clerk Rita Fulginiti had properly formatted the ballot for the city elections Nov. 3 in response to a challenge by three candidates running against incumbents.

At issue is that City Council candidates Mark Di-

anto, Chris Bezaire and mayoral candidate Zack Mullock hired attorney Dan Kurkowski to seek an emergent injunction requiring Fulginiti to change the order of the ballot. The injunction would have stopped the mailing of the ballots and required them to be reprinted reflecting the results of the initial drawing for positions.

The candidates claimed the ballot prepared by Fulginiti differed from the order

chosen in a random drawing for positions Sept. 3 by City Clerk Erin Burke. The ballot in question had been printed to link Lear and Hendricks running as a ticket. As a result, no name is listed in column one for council, Hendricks is in column two, DiSanto was moved to column three and Bezaire to column four.

The order on the ballot as drawn by Burke on Sept.

3 was, under the mayoral category:

1. Zachary Mullock
 2. Clarence F. Lear III
- Under the council section, the order drawn for the ballot was:

1. Mark DiSanto
 2. Patricia Gray Hendricks
 3. Christopher Bezaire
- Kurkowski argued Lear and Hendricks had not re-

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DiSanto believes marina could be economic savior

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Mark DiSanto made his first run for council in 2018 and now is running again, he said, because the city lacks leadership and a long-term economic plan.

"I have an economic plan with jobs, jobs and jobs," DiSanto said.

He is proposing the city build a municipal marina along Delaware Avenue as a revenue source and to draw yacht owners to Cape May and its businesses.

"It's going to be Cape May's economic backbone," DiSanto said.

The marina would be owned and operated by the city and located in Cape May Harbor along the Intracoastal Waterway, minutes away from downtown and the beaches, he said.

A city marina would be part of a network along the East Coast that are owned and operated by municipalities. Cape May's marina would have more than 200 world-class slips and 500 feet of alongside dockage, DiSanto said, adding that it would have state-of-the-art concrete floating docks.

"Cape May City Marina"

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Hendricks touts public outreach, accomplishments

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Even before being elected to City Council four years ago, Deputy Mayor Patricia Hendricks attended numerous meetings of boards and commissions, which increased when citizens advisory committees were formed during her term. She said she thrives on hard work and attention to details.

Hendricks is seeking re-election to council. A number of city initiatives have been completed during her term, ranging from

summer jitney service to a master plan update.

"I personally do not take credit for these outcomes," Hendricks said. "I'd rather think that they are the outreach we made the last four years and that the community has presented solutions to the council."

She said Cape May has an extraordinary record of small successes that lead to a bright future.

Problems with the flood elevation of Convention Hall and the Federal Emergency Management Agency are

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Walk-Up/Drive Thru FLU SHOT CLINICS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3rd & 24th • 8:00am - 1:00pm

649 Shore Road (Surgical Division Parking Lot), Somers Point, NJ 08244

To protect yourself the entire flu season, the CDC recommends getting a flu shot during the month of September or October. Patients must be 18 and older.

To schedule an appointment, call your Shore Physicians Group Primary Care Provider Office or visit ShorePhysiciansGroup.com.

