

HPC approves additions, pools at contributing homes

By JACK FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city's Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) granted conceptual approval for a pool, a patio and detached garage at 200 Madison Ave., a home contributing to the historic district.

During a meeting June 20, architect Stephen Fenwick, representing homeowners John and Judy Horvath, said the home was substantially renovated in 2017. The proposed garage is 18 feet high and conforms to zoning regulations.

He said the house is on a corner lot with the garage facing Kearney Avenue.

The garage will match cedar shake siding on the house and have a cedar shake roof, Fenwick said. The pool would have a cedar fence.

HPC Chairman Warren Coupland said he was concerned with the selection of windows and doors. He said Anderson 400 windows have not been used on a contributing property, even for a garage, and a Thermo Tru door was not appropriate.

HPC Commissioner Pip Campbell asked if the second floor of the garage would be used for living space. John Horvath said the second floor was for storage.

HPC Commissioner Tom

Carroll said plumbing often is installed at a later date and parts of garages then become a separate dwelling. He said the plans include air conditioning and glass doors.

Carroll said the building has a "more domestic look" than a garage. HPC's approval included a condition stating the garage was not to be used as a residence. He said the garage also could be placed farther back on the property.

John Horvath said his neighbors are considering moving their house forward to line up with the streetscape.

Fenwick said he wasn't sure if the project needs

Zoning Board approval for lot coverage. Coupland said the applicant would need to return to the HPC for final approval.

HPC Commissioner John Boecker suggested the garage may need to be lengthened to accommodate headroom for stairs to the second floor.

Coupland asked for a landscape plan to ensure the pool would not be visible from the street. John Horvath said he would change the brand of windows and doors on the garage and use wood.

Fenwick asked if a composite material such as Boral could be used for the trim. Coupland said the HPC wanted wood trim.

"There's a lot of products that look very, very nice but this is a National Historic Landmark City," Coupland said.

Fenwick said he wasn't convinced by the argument to use only wood.

"If you can see through the paint like Superman — that I know of, only Superman sees through paint," he

said. "I don't get it."

"Fortunately for Cape May, we don't have to convince you," Coupland replied. "We just have to ask you to use wood."

Carroll asked for a design of the proposed pergola to be built next to the pool.

In other business, the HPC granted final approval to a renovation, an addition, a pool and a garage at 347 Congress St., a home contributing to the historic district. The applicants, Bill and Dee Conrad, were represented by architect Paul Kiss.

He said the applicants appeared before the HPC in April with a proposal for moving and raising the existing building, renovating and building an addition on the rear of the house and demolishing and replacing the garage.

Revisions were since made to the plans. Kiss said. The city's Zoning Board is requiring the home be moved back on the lot to conform to the average front yard setback on the block.

Kiss said the addition would be constructed on the rear of the house with the pool behind it.

"The front building is not being altered, it's just being restored," he said.

The house is being lifted about 24 inches with a wall of landscaping, so the look of the house from ground to roof would remain close to its current appearance, Kiss said. He said the pool was reduced in size mostly due to setback concerns and the garage site pushed back to the back corner with an almost 50 percent reduction in the size of the garage and 3 feet removed from its height.

Carroll said normally the HPC discouraged very large additions to contributing homes. He said with the available land for the project and the length of the original house, the Horvath's were successfully creating a home that would not make a real difference to the historic district.

Boecker said the proposed project improved the property.

LTPD promotes three to lieutenant, appoints another detective sergeant

VILLAS — The Lower Township Police Department promoted three officers to the rank of lieutenant June 6. The department also appointed a new detective sergeant.

The promoted officers are:

— Lt. Michael Majane is a 20-year veteran of the police department. He has lifelong ties to Lower Township and his father, Frank Majane, retired from the LTPD as a lieutenant. He is a 1999 graduate of Lower Cape May Regional High School who he began his law enforcement career in 2000 as a Class II Special Officer with the Wildwood Police Department.

Majane then worked for the Cape May County Sheriff's Department until being hired full time by the LTPD in 2001. He was assigned to the detective division in 2010 and promoted to detective first class in 2013, when he oversaw the detective division.

Majane was reassigned as a patrol corporal in December 2019 before being promoted to sergeant in September 2020, when he became squad leader of Patrol Squad 1. He then was transferred to police administration in February 2022, when he was promoted to sergeant first class and assumed duties as the administrative sergeant.

During his career at the department, he has attended many advanced training courses to include Top Gun Narcotics Investigation, Investigative Photography and Video, Crime Scene and Advanced Crime Scene Investigation, Advanced Interview and Interrogation, Internal Affairs Investigation. He previously served as the Departmental Evidence Custodian and Firearms Instructor. He also served as the department armorer and is certified as a Glock Professional and Colt Defense M4 Armorer.

Additionally, he has served as a member of the Lower Township SWAT team and the Cape May County SWAT Team from 2005-2016 and has instructed at the Cape May County Police Academy since 2003.

Majane's badge was pinned by his wife, Erin. His mother, Dolores Majane, and daughter Aubrey held the Bible.

— Lt. John Armbruster is a nine-year veteran of the LTPD who was hired as a fulltime officer in August 2012. He was promoted to the rank of corporal in January 2018 and then to sergeant in June 2018. In January 2021, he was provisionally promoted to the rank of lieutenant and assigned as a patrol lieutenant.

Armbruster graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School and earned an associate degree in criminal justice from Atlantic Cape Community College and a bachelor's degree in health promotion from Coastal Carolina University, where he graduated with the honor of Cum Laude. Armbruster graduated from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Command and Leadership Academy in 2019.

He is a former member of the department's Honor Guard, Field Training Officer and the County Mobile Field Force Operations Unit. Armbruster is an instructor at the Cape May County Police Academy for Defensive Tactics and Physical Fitness. He is married and has three daughters.

His oldest daughter, Emma, pinned on his badge. His wife, Adrienne, and daughters Madison and Chloe held the Bible.

— Lt. Brian McEwing is a 16-year veteran of the LTPD. He graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School and began his career as a Class II Officer in 2003 while attending Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. McEwing returned in 2007 to accept a fulltime position, receiving the academic and director's awards upon graduating from Cape May County Police Academy. McEwing holds an associate degree from Atlantic Cape Community College. In 2013, he was assigned to the detective division and in addition to conducting criminal investigations, holds the position of municipal humane law enforcement officer and fatal crash team leader. In 2019, he was promoted to detective sergeant. Since then he has overseen the detective division. He is a 2020 graduate of the New Jersey Chiefs of

Police Command and Leadership Program. His new assignment as lieutenant will be in the Patrol Division.

— Detective Sgt. Michael Perry is an 18-year veteran of the LTPD. He is a lifelong resident of Lower Township who graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School in 1999. He was hired just out of high school as a Special Law Enforcement Officer II. He worked in that capacity until September 2003, when he was hired as a corrections officer with the Cape May County Sheriff's Department. In June 2004, Perry was hired as a fulltime patrol officer. Upon graduating from the Cape May County Police Academy in 2005, he was assigned to the patrol division. In 2010, he was assigned as a school resource officer with the Lower Cape May Regional School District. In 2013, he was assigned to the detective division and in December 2019, he was promoted to detective first class. He was assigned as a corporal in the patrol division in December 2020, shortly before being promoted to sergeant. He served as the squad leader for Patrol Squad 2 before his most recent appointment.

During his career, he has attended many advanced training courses, including Top Gun Narcotic Investigations, Investigative Photography, Crime Scene Investigation, Advanced Interview and Interrogation and Internal Affairs Investigations. He is also the Department's Active Shooter Instructor; and Fair and Impartial Policing Trainer.

Additionally, he has been a member of the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team since 2008. Perry has also been an instructor at the Cape May County Police Academy since 2015.

He instructs Academy Recruits on Juvenile Law, Fair and Impartial Policing, and Physical Conditioning. He also serves as a CTS Less-Lethal instructor.

Perry is married to Kourtney Perry, a detective sergeant at the Cape May County Correctional Center/Cape May County Sheriff's Department. They have two sons, Michael and Madden.



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