



HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Real Estate Resource



HALLOWEEN PARADE SCARES UP A CROWD IN CAPE MAY

Page B1



DeSatnicks grill mayor on lack of slope study

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Dennis DeSatnick, a member of the city's Beach Safety Committee whose son suffered a spinal injury in Cape May's surf submitted an Open Public Records Act request with the city for all emails, documents and paperwork related to beach safety.

The city has been working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Stockton University's Coastal Research Center, Beebe Health System in Lewes, Del., and Cape Regional Medical Center to address a heightened number of beach injuries in the city's surf zone.

During an Oct. 18 City Council meeting, his wife, Anita DeSatnick, who is also a Beach Safety Committee member, said the information was received one week ago.

"When Denny and I were reading these over, there were a few that stood out to me, that really knocked me off my feet, to be honest with you," she said.

She read aloud a May 5, 2016, email from Mayor Edward Mahaney to Stockton University Coastal Research Center Executive Director Stewart Farrell in which the mayor thanked Farrell for forwarding a copy of the Delaware Surf Zone Injury paper.

"At my request, the city has just formed a beach safety committee to research and mitigate the surf zone injury issue on a multifaceted basis," Mahaney said in the email.

"At your request there was a beach committee formed?" asked Anita DeSatnick.

Mahaney replied "yes." She said the committee was the result of her son, Chad DeSatnick, her husband and herself asking council for years to address the issue.

In a July 29 email from Mahaney to Farrell, the mayor asked Farrell to participate in a "panel presentation of beach conditions on the Cape May oceanfront." Mahaney stated the Army Corps and DEP were on board to hold a town meeting on the "intertwined topics of sea level rise, climate change, beach replenishment and surf-tidal issues."

"Hopefully, such a presentation will quell this ongoing misinformed notion about a correlation between head/neck injuries of bathers and the beach

See DeSatnicks, Page A2



Jack Fichter/CAPE MAY STAR AND WAVE

Cape May mayoral candidates Chuck Lear, left, and Edward Mahaney and City Council candidates Patricia Hendricks and Zack Mullock, right, await the start of a forum hosted by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May and moderated by the League of Women Voters on Oct. 18.

Candidates tackle school, aging buildings, discourse

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The season's final candidates night covered a minimal amount of new ground as two candidates for mayor — Chuck Lear and incumbent Edward Mahaney — and two candidates for one City Council seat — Patricia Hendricks and Zack Mullock — participated Oct. 18 in an event sponsored by the Taxpayers Association of Cape May and moderated by

the League of Women Voters.

The candidates appeared last month in an event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce of Greater Cape May and earlier this month at events at Victorian Towers and Village Greene. While many of the same questions were posed at the Oct. 18 event, a few new questions surfaced.

The mayoral candidates were asked what they believed was the role and responsibilities of mayor, and if elected, how

they would address the position. Mahaney, who has been accused of overstepping his position in the past, said he is very familiar with the duties and responsibilities and he does not exceed them. He said the mayor appoints members of the Environmental Commission and emergency management, signs all contracts and represents the city at ceremonial and formal affairs.

See Candidates, Page A4

Hendricks: City cannot ignore pressing issues

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Patricia Hendricks is making her second run for a City Council seat Nov. 8.

Hendricks earned a bachelor's degree in political science and secondary education with an emphasis on American history at George Washington University. She taught social studies in the Washington, D.C., public school system and was selected as a teacher for the daughter of the president of the United States.

She has resided in Cape May since 1985. Hendricks

See Hendricks, Page A7



HENDRICKS

Mullock hopes to be uniter on governing body

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — Zack Mullock is making his first run for a City Council seat Nov. 8, hoping to be a team builder to "bring the city together and restore civility in the city's public discourse."

Mullock attended Cape May City Elementary School, Our Lady Star of the Sea School and Wildwood Catholic High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in business administration at St. Joseph's University. Mullock is vice president of Cape May



MULLOCK

See Mullock, Page A8

Furlin says Lear paid for illegal overtime

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — During council comments at an Oct. 18 City Council meeting, Councilman Roger Furlin launched into a nearly 20-minute monologue against retired Cape May Police Department Lt. Chuck Lear, a candidate in the mayoral election Nov. 8.

Reading from a number of pages, Furlin accused Lear of illegally receiving overtime pay. Lear retired and settled with the city effective Jan. 1, 2016.

Furlin said he was answering comments made by former police chief Robert Boyd during public comment at a council meeting last month concerning a resolution accepting Lear's settlement agreement for retirement. Boyd criticized the city for not acknowledging Lear's 37 years of service to the police department. Furlin said the resolution was not a celebration but a reprimand for accumulating what he termed "illegal overtime compensation." He said salaried employees were prohibited from receiving overtime or comp time pay.

Furlin addressed Boyd's earlier comment of a conspiracy to get rid of Lear, a lieutenant, so a sergeant could be promoted to chief of police. He said a complaint was filed against Lear by the police union and another from a citizen.

Councilman Shaine Meier said City Manager Bruce MacLeod approved Lear's overtime hours. Meier asked if Furlin was slamming Lear for political reasons.

"Why are you doing this?" asked Meier. "You weren't even here when it happened."

Furlin said City Council approved an independent investigator to look at Lear's overtime hours. He said Lear amassed 1,424 hours of comp time and cashed in unused vacation time because he was using comp time.

Furlin claimed Lear's contract was salaried and did not allow overtime pay or comp time regardless of number of hours worked. He claimed Lear renegeed on his first proposed settlement agreement, which was identical except for a retirement date of Jan. 1 rather than July 1. Furlin said Lear told him he did not take comp time, he took flex time. Furlin said his life mantra was "honor your agreements."

"In my opinion, Lt. Lear engaged in

See Furlin diatribe, Page A2

Cape May approves lawsuit settlement with gay former cop

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — City Council approved a settlement with former Cape May police officer Steven Pascal on Oct. 18.

The original lawsuit named the city and Capt. Robert Sheehan as defendants "based on alleged acts of harassment, discrimination and retaliation that occurred within the police department and without knowledge of the city administration."

The settlement totals \$369,000, which according to a statement

issued by the city would be funded mostly through the Joint Insurance Fund (JIF). Although the city had previously considered a contribution of \$50,000 toward the total settlement, the JIF is considering a reduction of the city's contribution, City Solicitor Tony Monzo said.

According to the city's statement, over the years Pascal, an openly gay officer, had complained to former police chief Diane Sorantino of the harassment he received by members of the community as well as various acts of harassment, discrimination and

retaliation by the police administration, including Sheehan while he served as the captain and the internal affairs officer.

"Notwithstanding the various alleged acts of harassment, discrimination and retaliation that occurred within the department and without knowledge of the city administration, Pascal demonstrated erratic behavior that was brought to the city's attention by the police department and led to a termination hearing based upon the conduct that was displayed by Mr. Pascal," stated the city. "There were two indi-

vidual reports, one by a licensed psychiatrist and one by a licensed psychologist that concluded he was not fit for duty and therefore placed the city at risk if he continued to serve as police officer."

Monzo handled a departmental hearing and a decision was made by retired Superior Court Judge Richard J. Williams to uphold the recommendation of the police department to terminate Pascal as a police officer. The final decision was made in 2013 by City Manager Bruce MacLeod as the appropriate authority and not by the governing body, according to

the city.

"It was not until after the termination hearing that many of the alleged complaints about harassment, discrimination and retaliation surfaced through the litigation, including the various alleged homophobic slurs and threats made by members of the public that were not, according to Mr. Pascal, adequately addressed by the police department," stated the city. "As a result, the city, along with Captain Sheehan, was sued claiming wrongful termination

See Settlement, Page A4



REGISTER NOW TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

5TH ANNUAL "SOLEMAN" 5K RUN AND MEMORIAL WALK

Please join us for this community event. Free coffee for those that bring a can for the food pantry. Raise awareness of the importance of character in people and to raise money for the Gene Sole Scholarship Fund.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH AT 9:00AM
CAPE MAY CONVENTION HALL

Registration is \$25 for 5K Run & memorial walk is \$15. Veterans are Free! Pre-registration guarantees each runner to receive a tee shirt. Information and registration at SolemanRun.com. Local Business support needed and always welcomed for scholarship fund.